



KELLY THOMPSON | MEREDITH MCCLAREN | BECCA CAREY

BLACK CLOAK™

VOLUME TWO

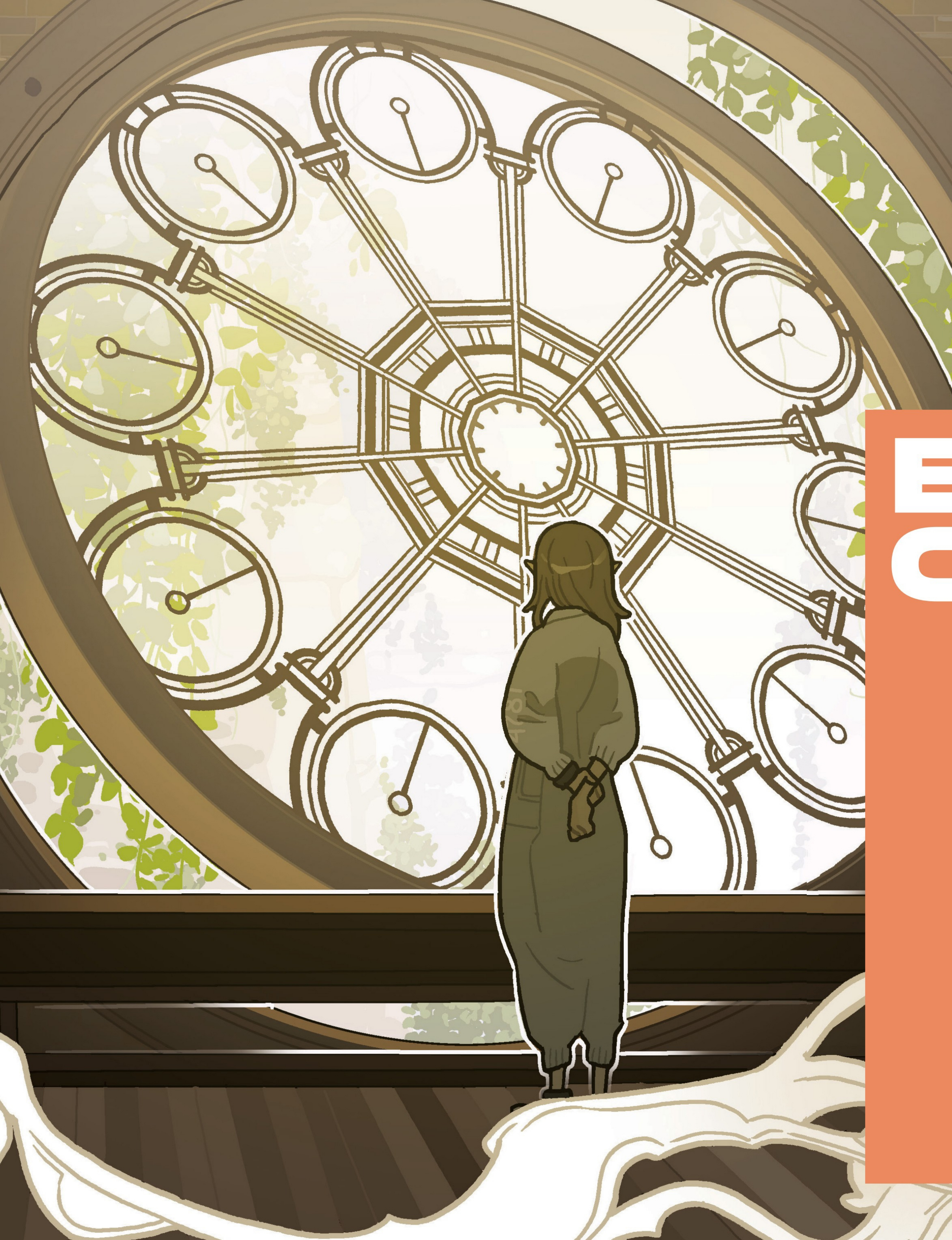
MURDERER





BLACK CLOAK

VOLUME TWO



BLACK CLOAK

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BLACK CLOAK VOLUME 2.

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THE CITY OF KIROS.

THE LAST CITY IN
THE KNOWN WORLD.

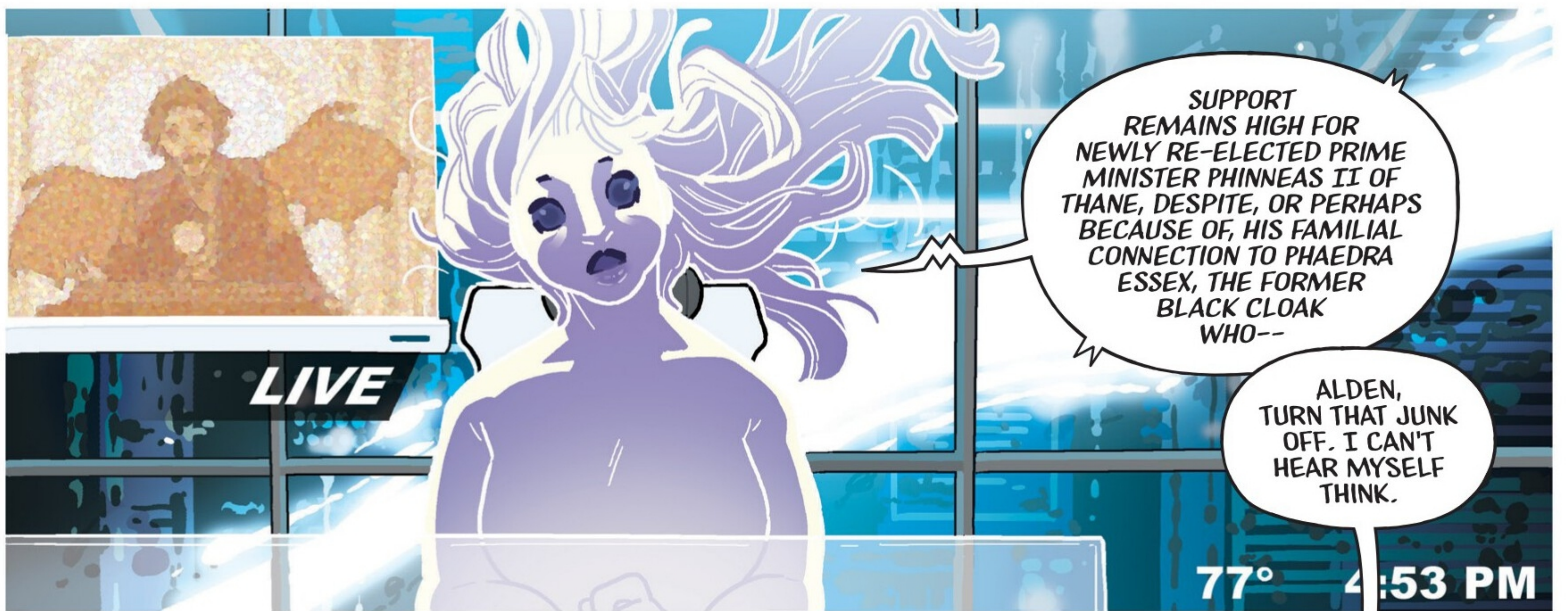
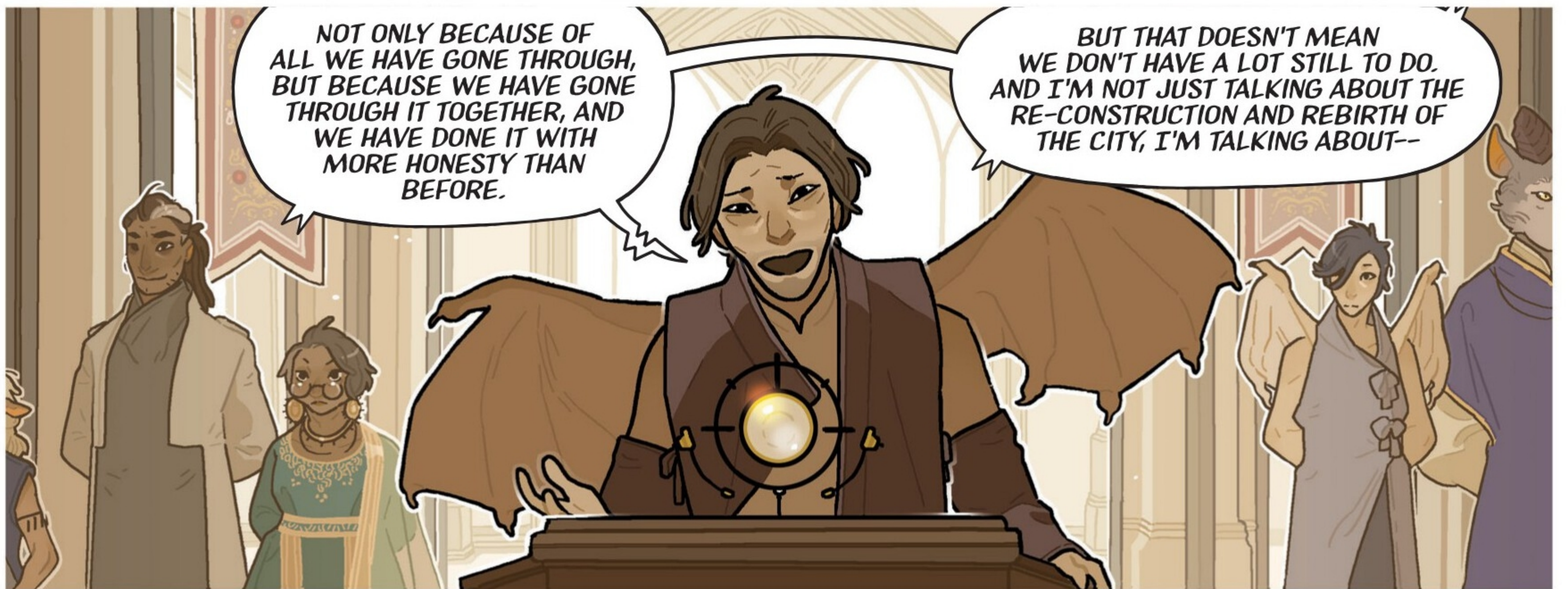
FIVE YEARS AFTER
THE ESSEX FIRE.

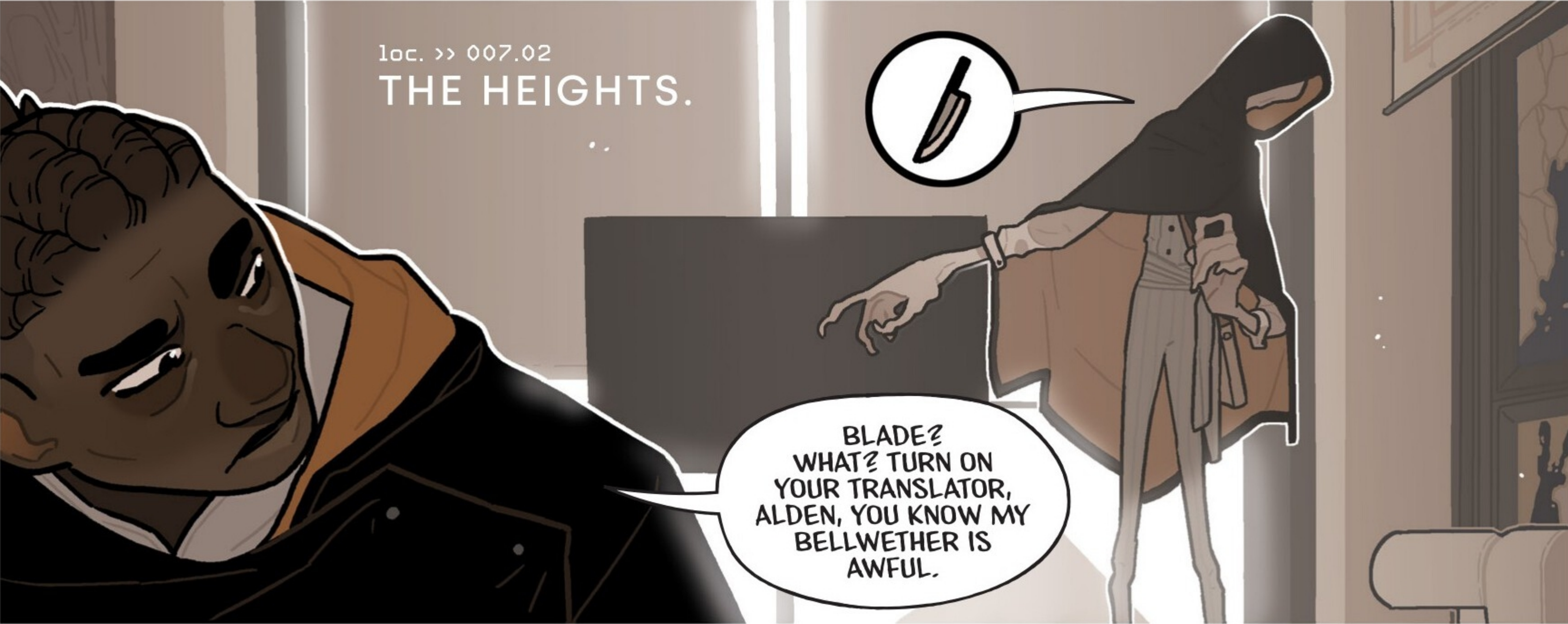
AN EVENT DRENCHED IN
BLOOD AND FIRE BOTH.

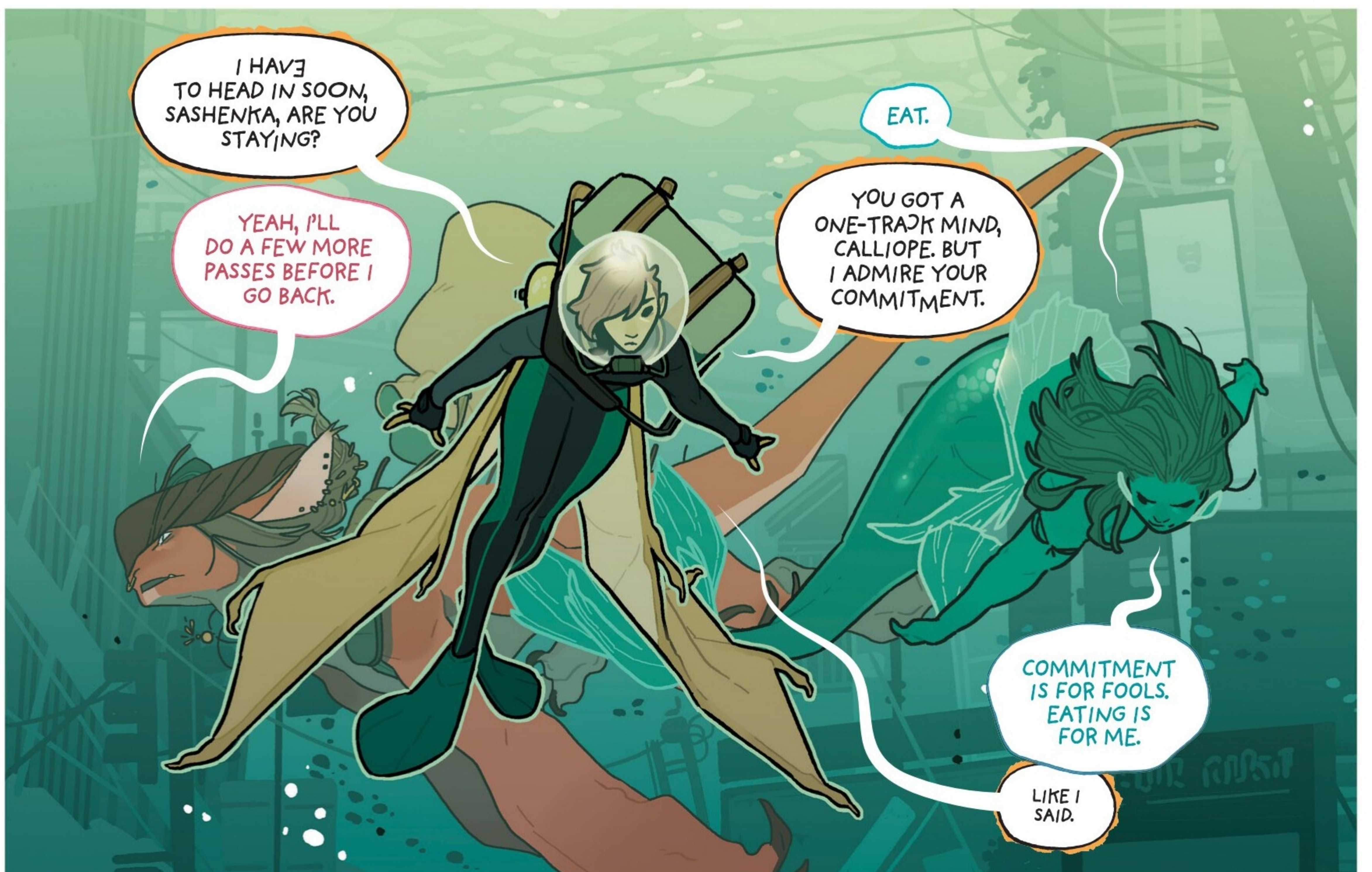
BUT SOMETIMES YOU
NEED FIRE IN ORDER
TO BE REBORN. THAT'S
NOT JUST A STORY.

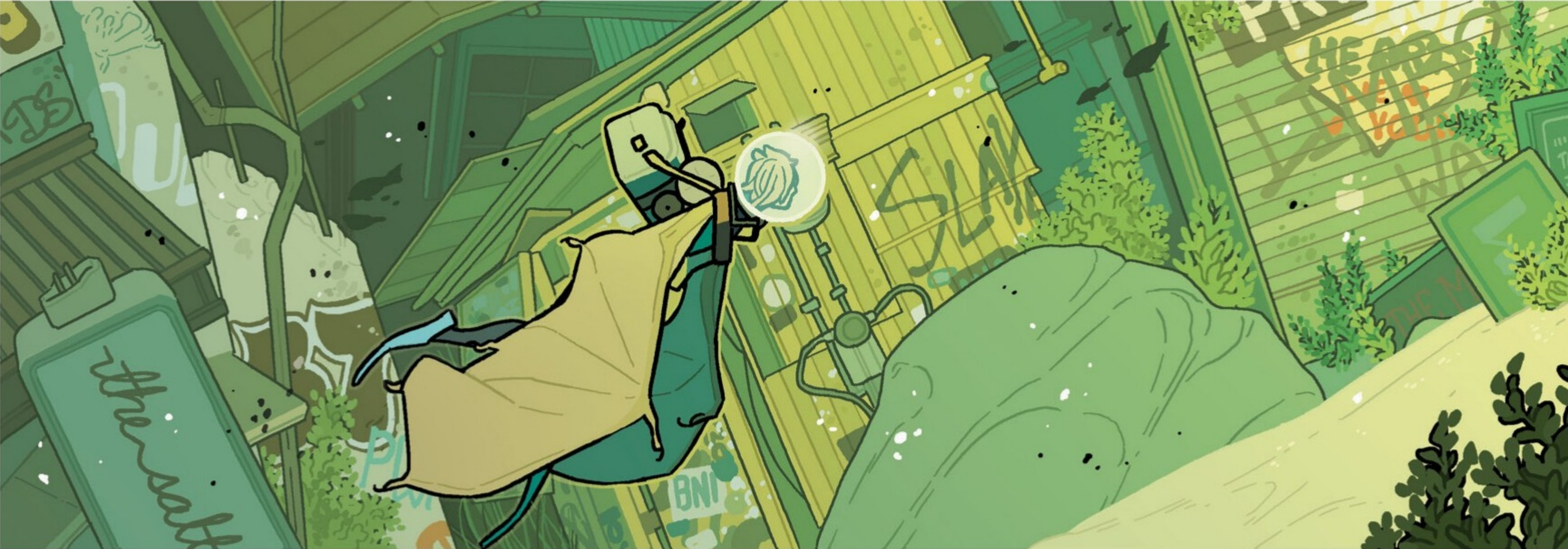
PROBABLY.









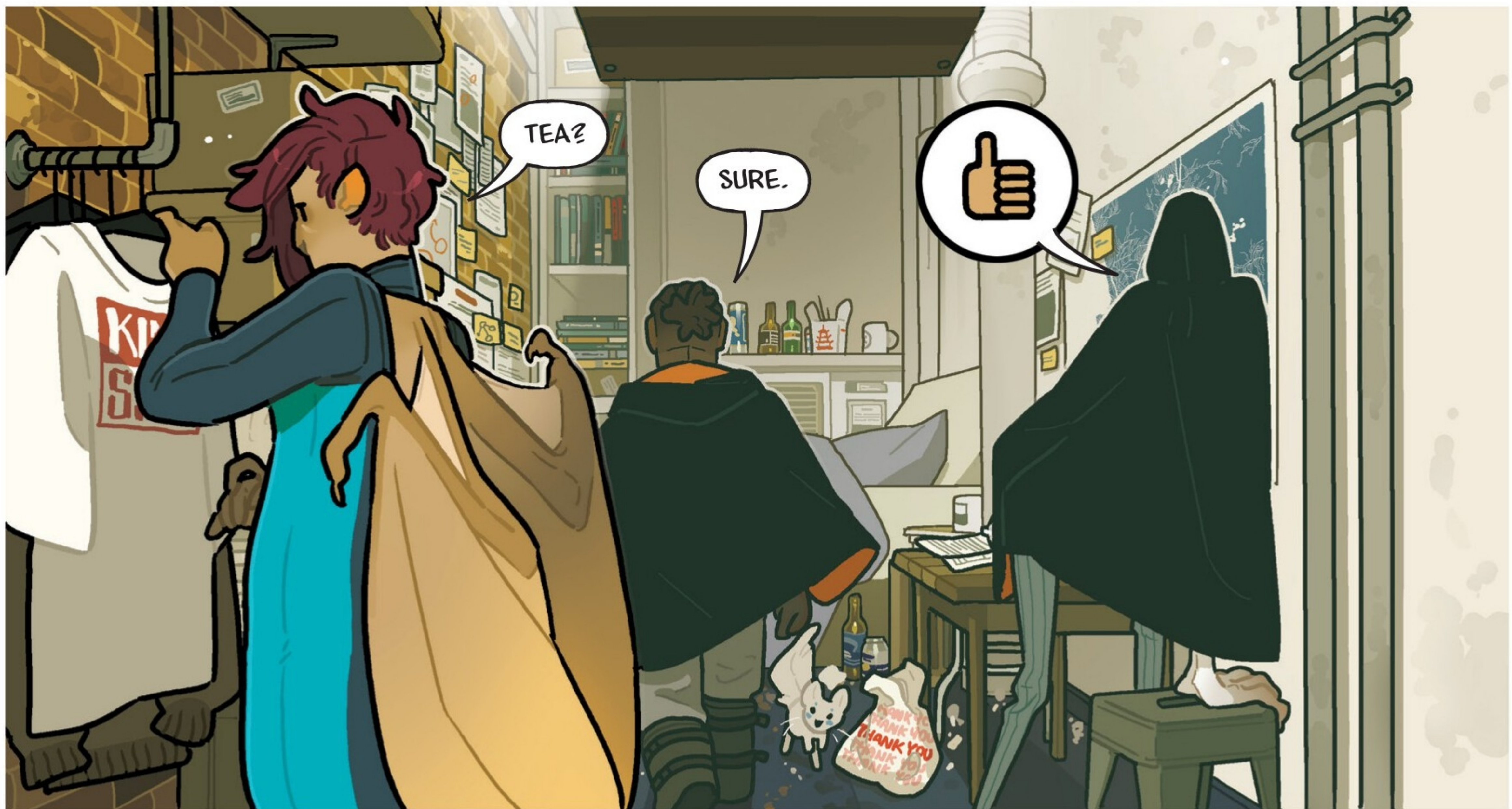






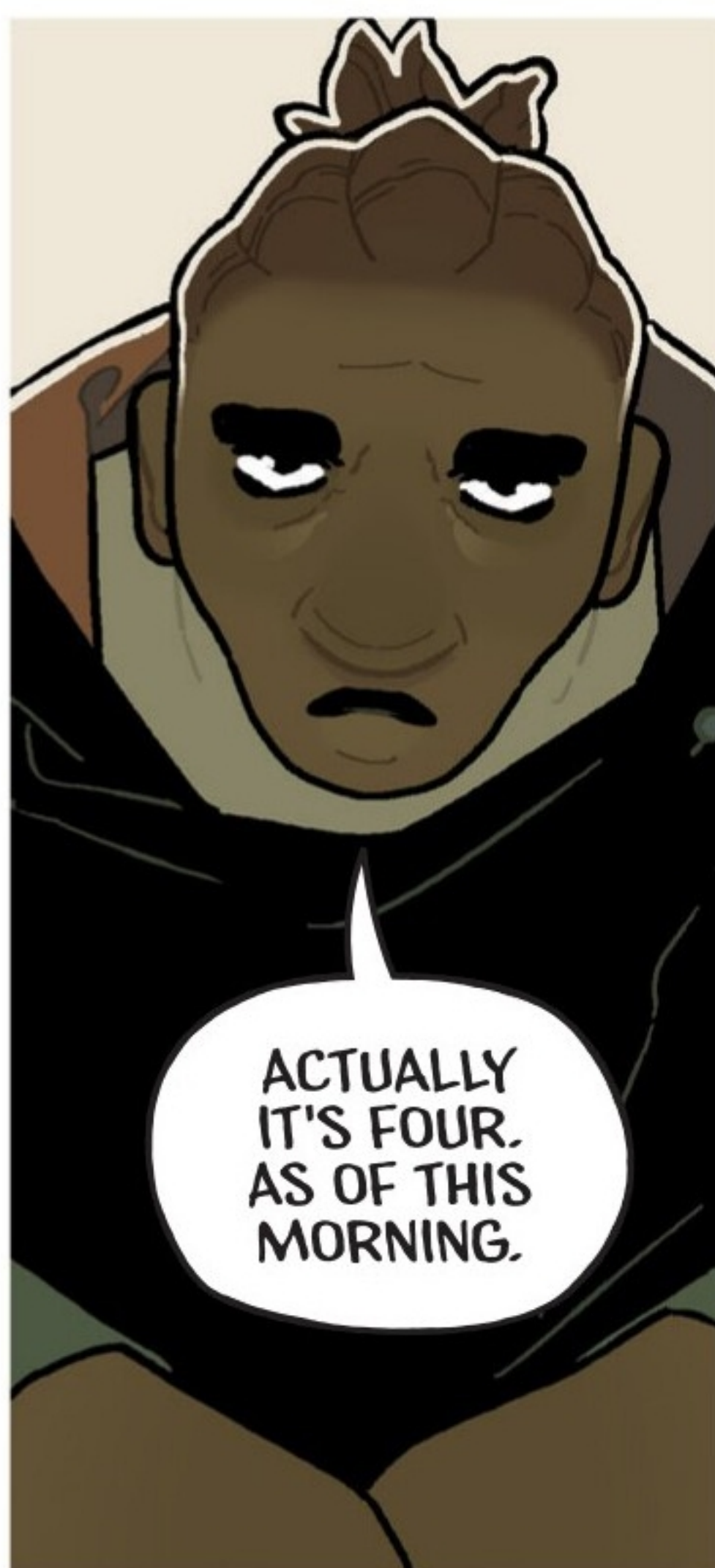


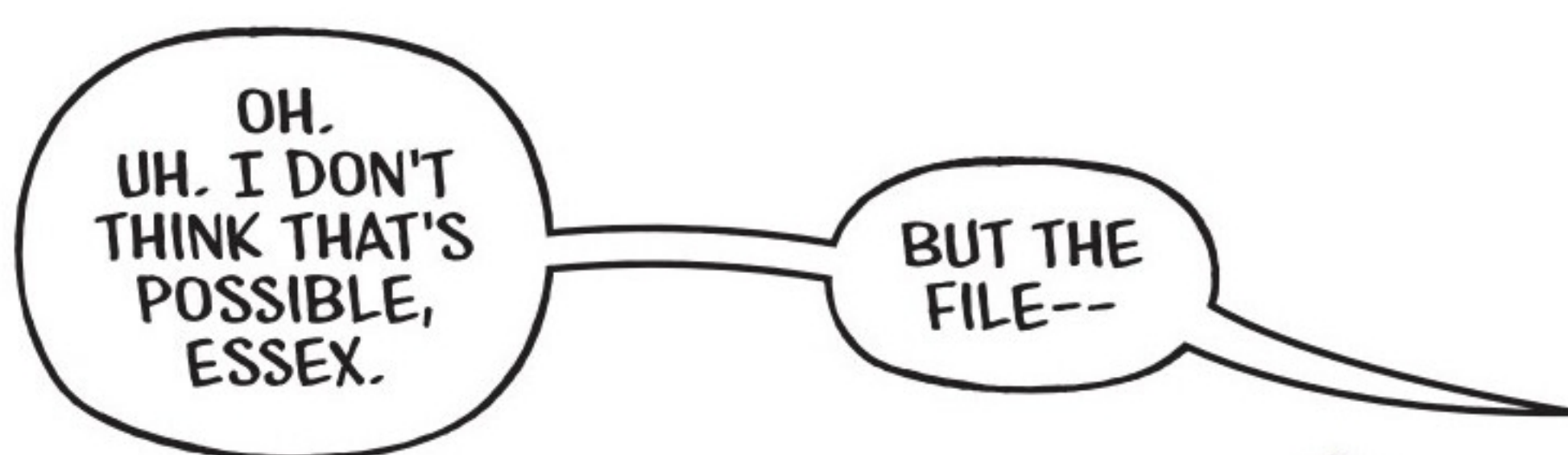


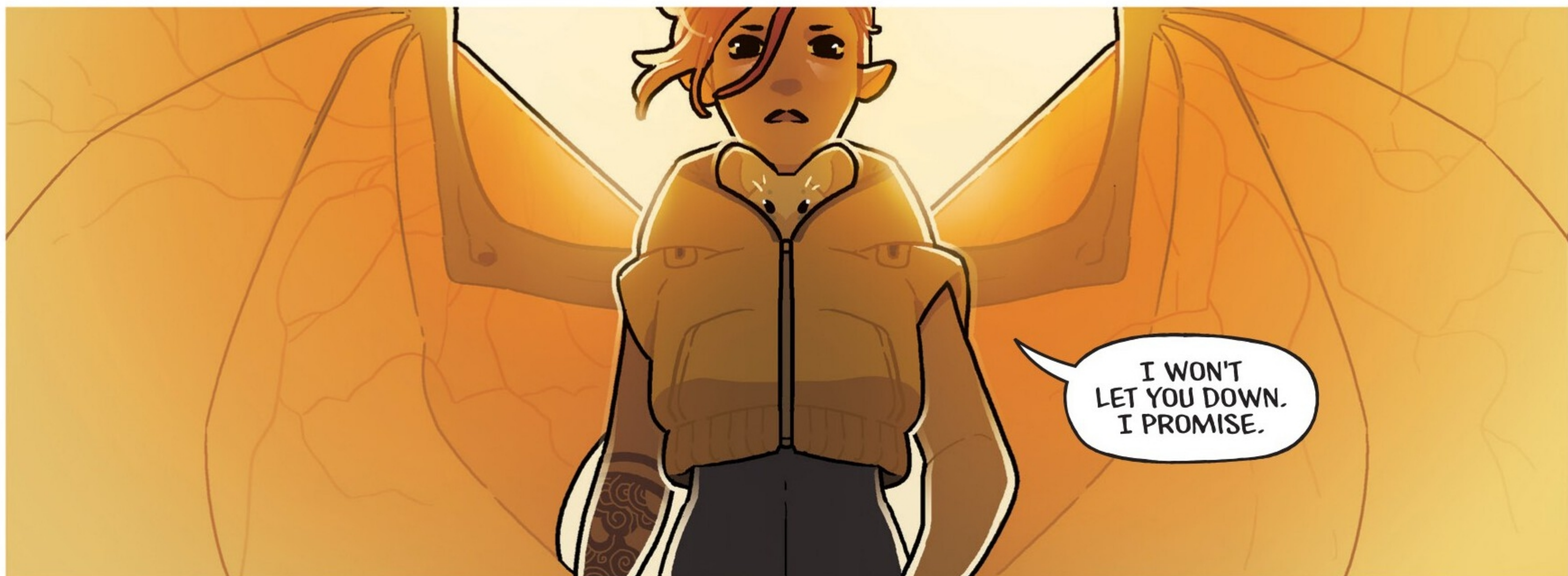








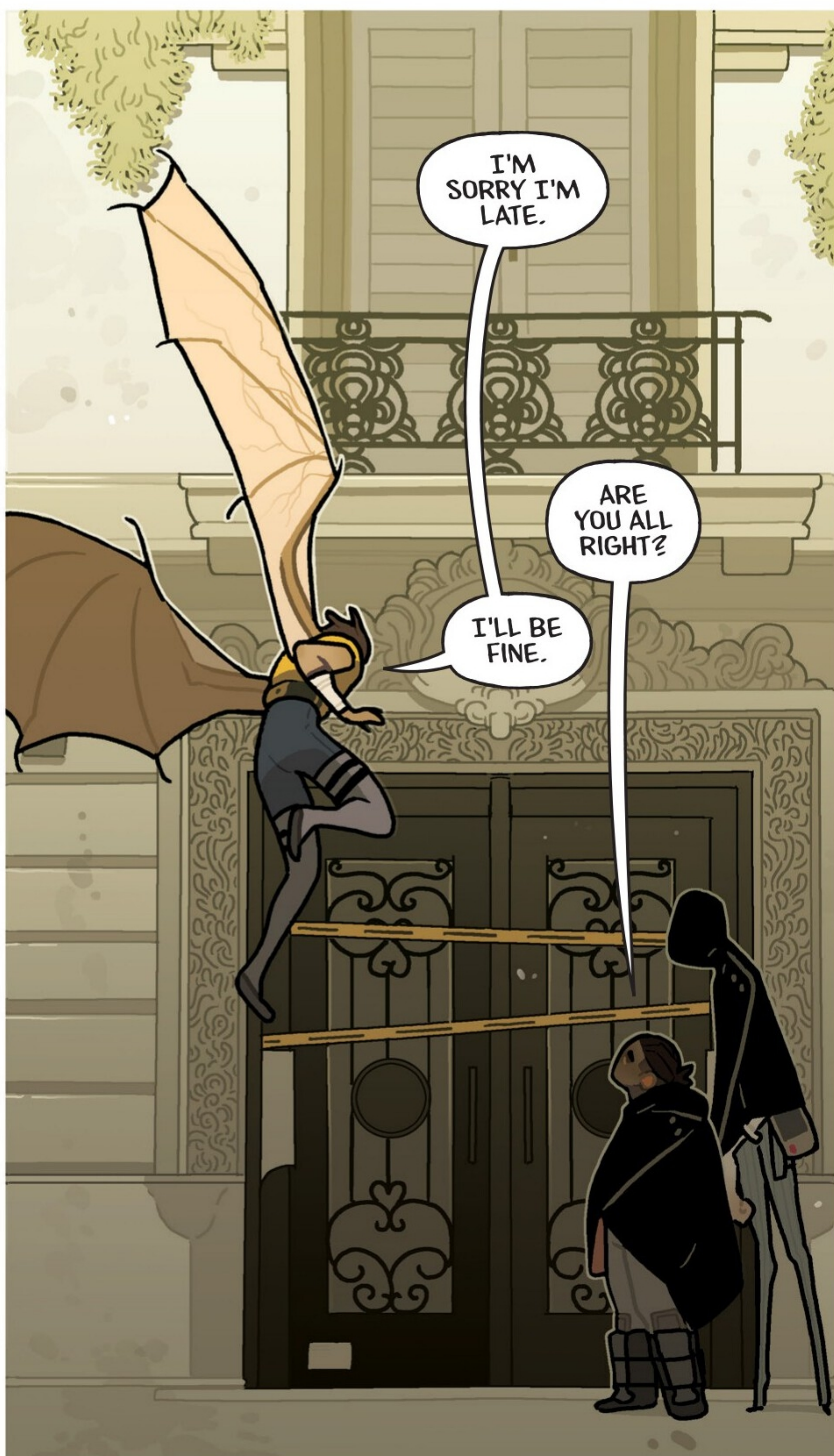






loc. >> 007.05

THE HEIGHTS.





YOU HAVE
FOUR SCENES
LIKE THIS.

YOU
SHOULD HAVE
COME FOR ME
SOONER.

YES.









HISSE

DRAWN
TO LIGHT.

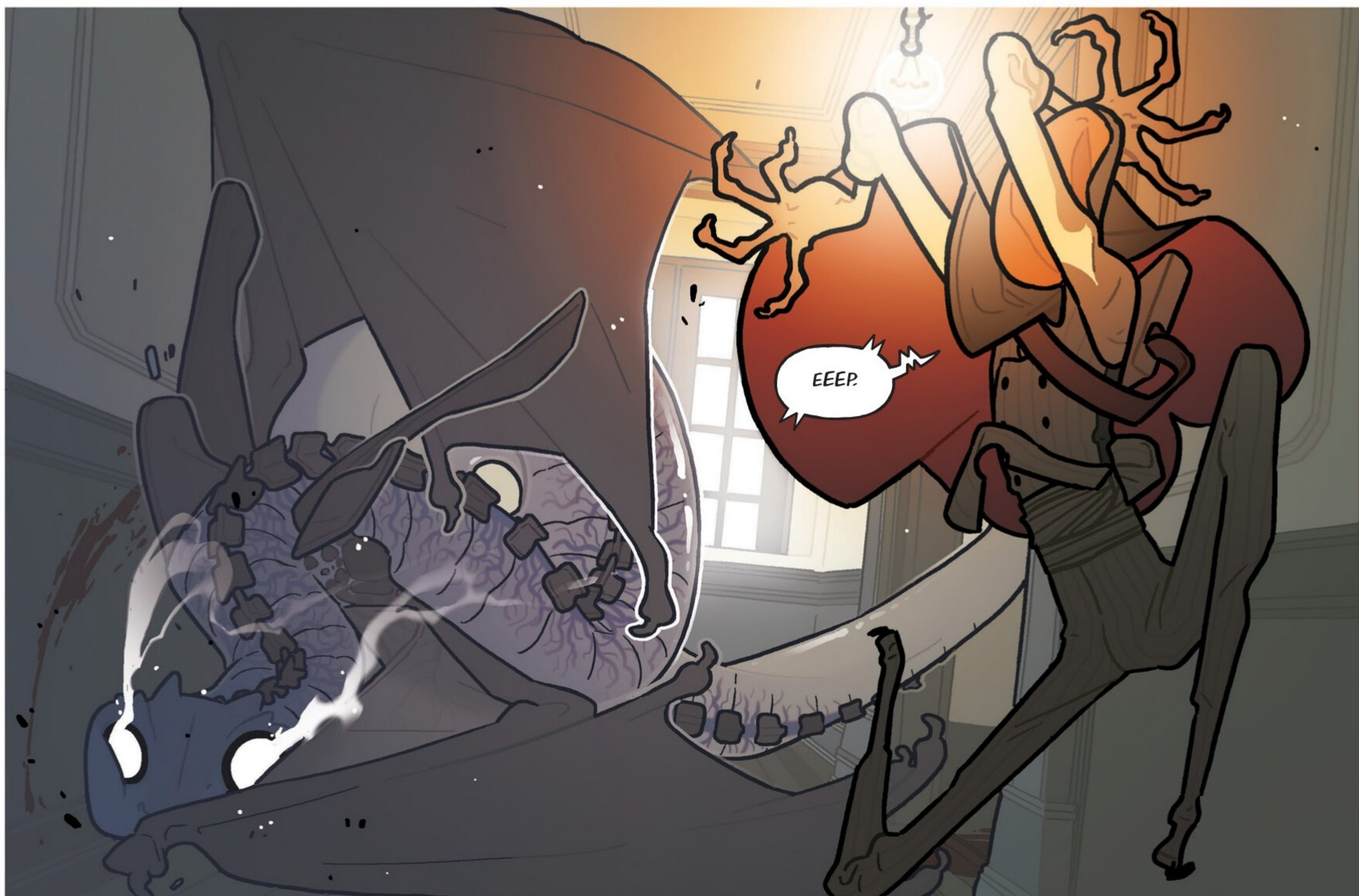
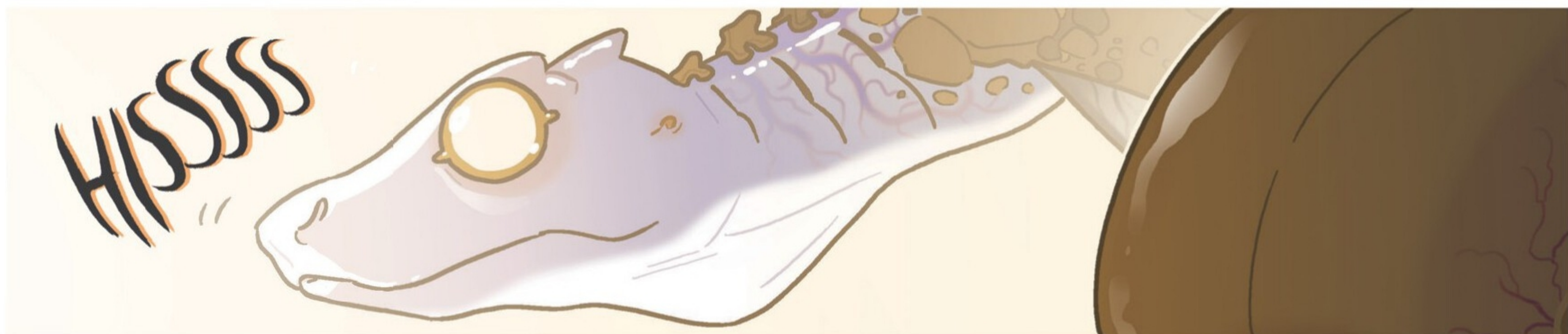
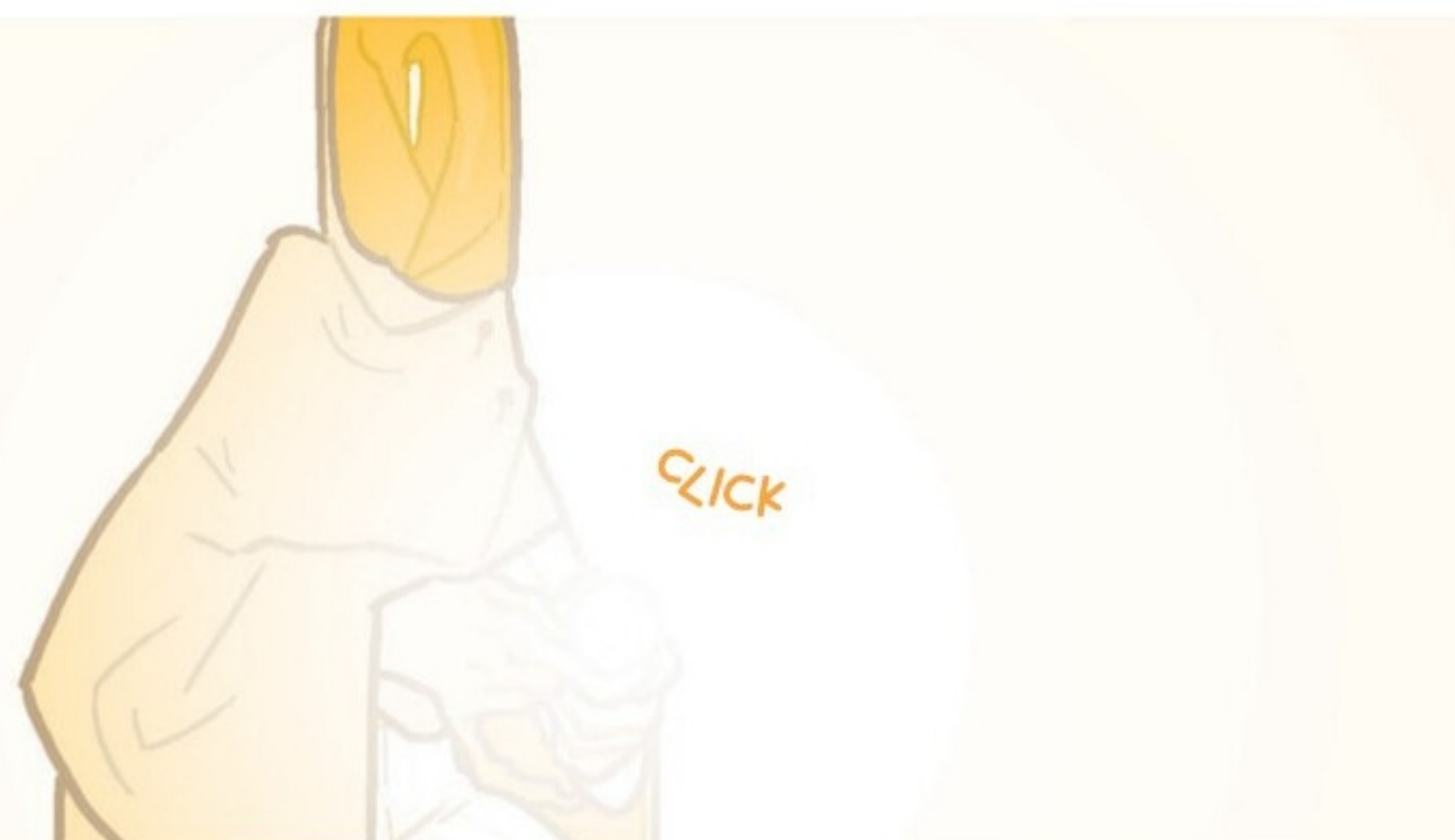
DRAW
TO WHERE,
THOUGH?

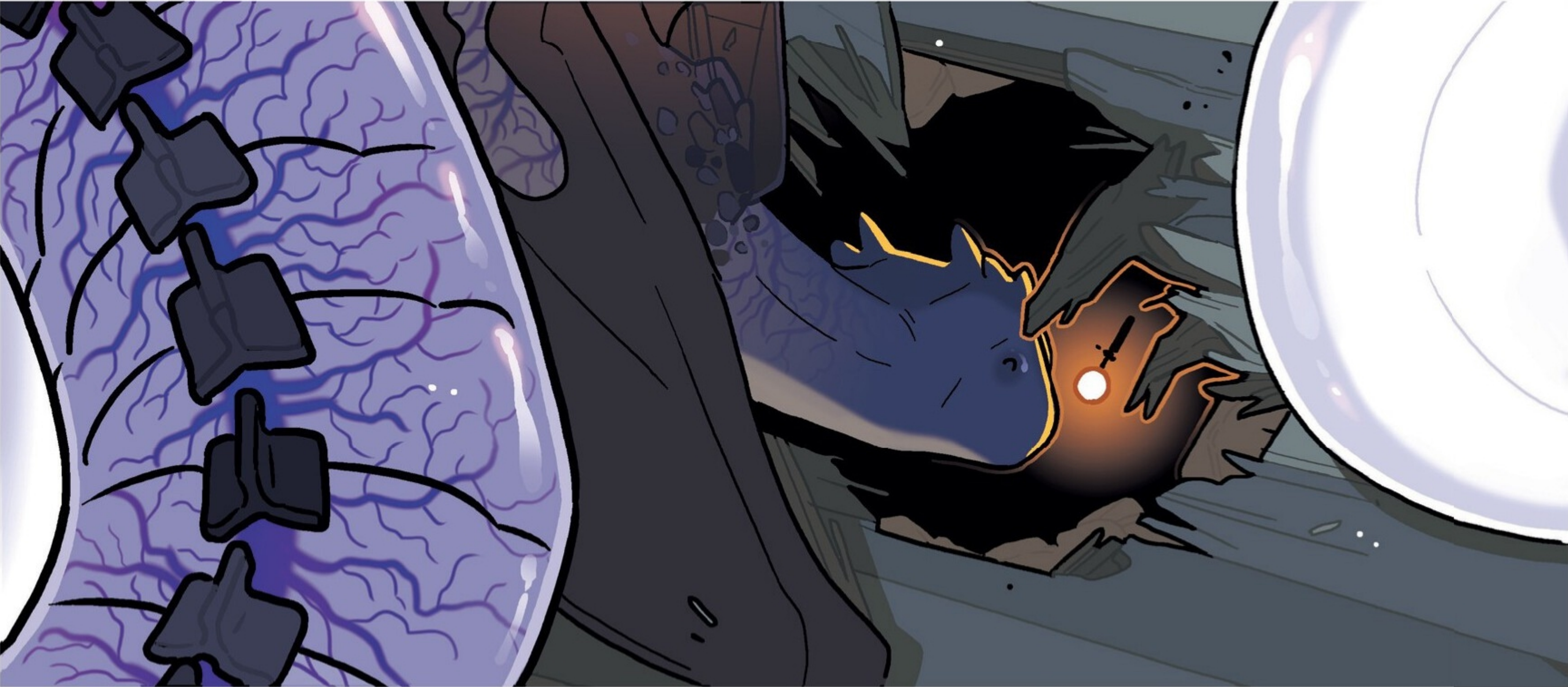
THERE'S
SOMETHING...
IN THE OTHER
ROOM.

I CAN
DO IT.



...ALL
RIGHT.











AND YOU'LL HAVE TO POST SHIFTS.

WHY?



BECAUSE THIS HOLE WASN'T HERE BEFORE, AND THIS THING WENT TO A LOT OF TROUBLE TO COME BACK TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME. WHY?

MUST HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR SOMETHING.

HUGE RISK.

OR SOMEONE.



AND WE INTERRUPTED IT.

AND I DIDN'T SEE IT ESCAPING WITH ANYTHING IN ITS...LACK OF HANDS.



SO IT *ISN'T* A MINDLESS MONSTER.

IF IT'S LOOKING FOR SOMETHING, IT HAS INTELLIGENCE... AGENCY.

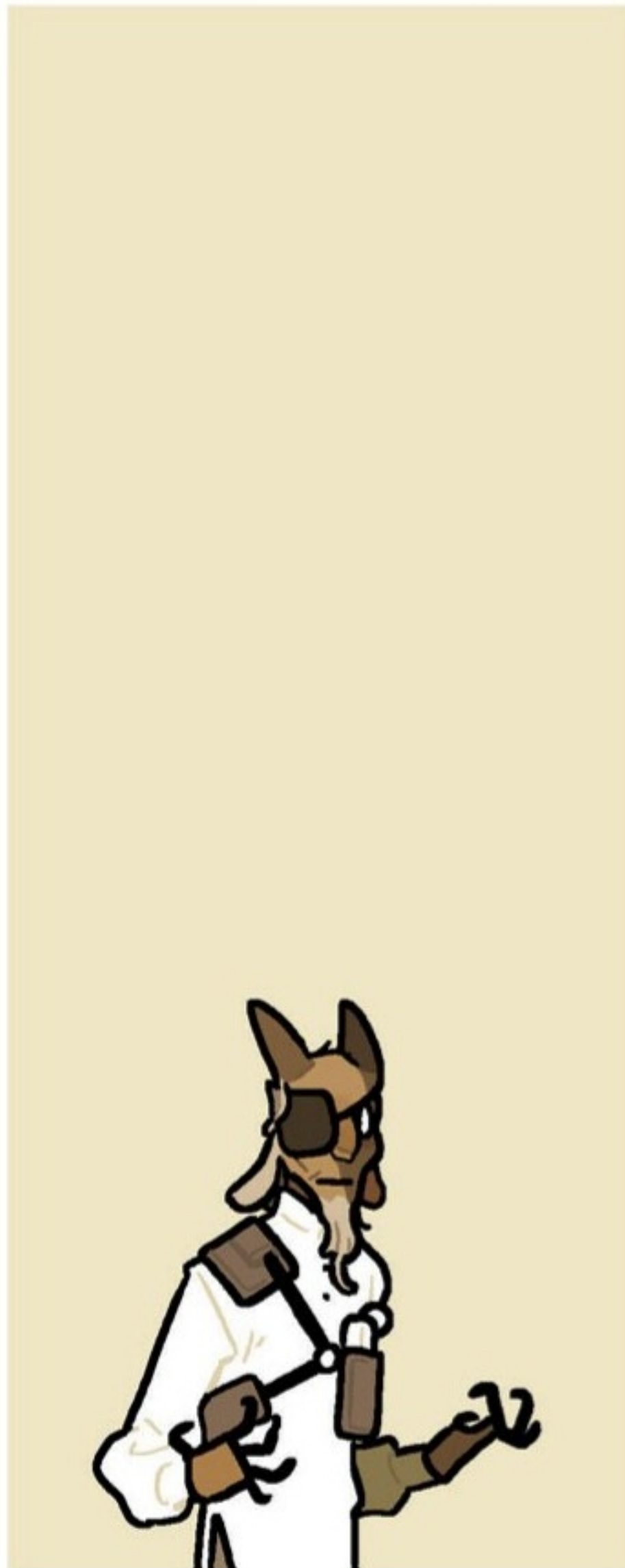
MEEP.

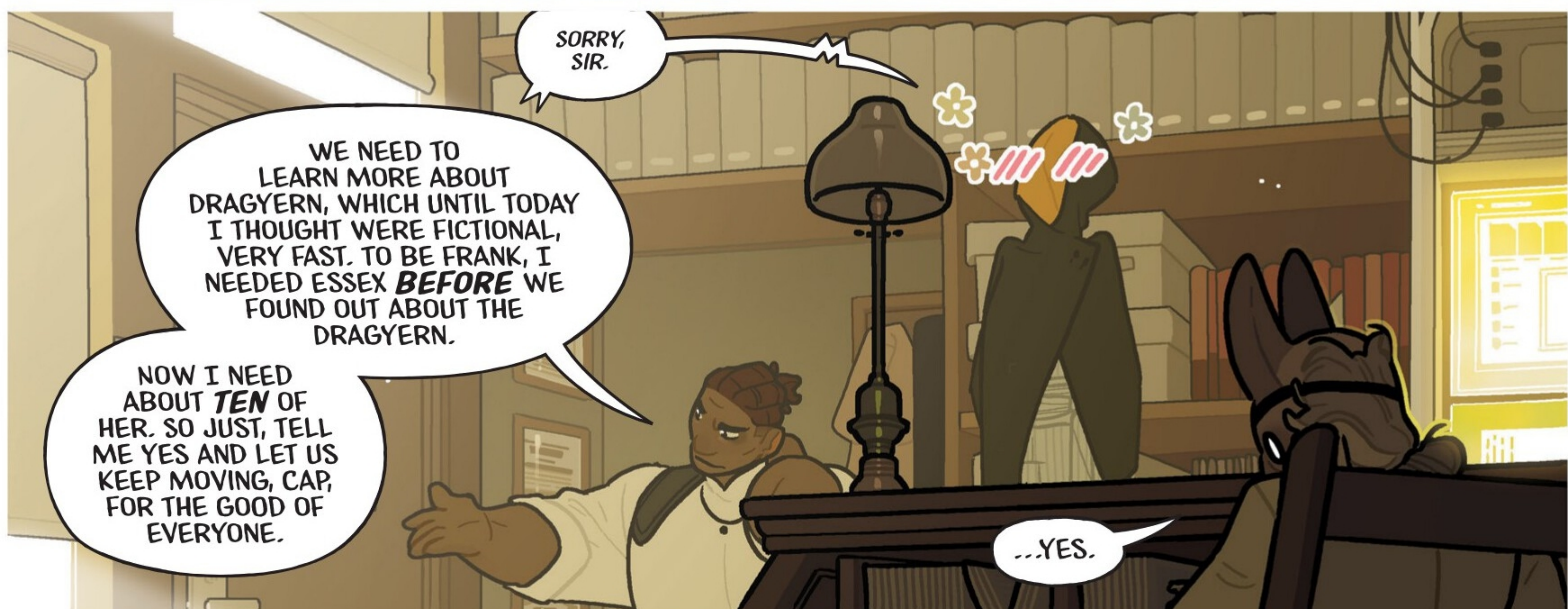
I THINK I LIKED IT BETTER WHEN IT WAS JUST A MONSTER.



TRUE, IT'S MESSIER NOW. BUT AT LEAST IT MAKES MORE SENSE.





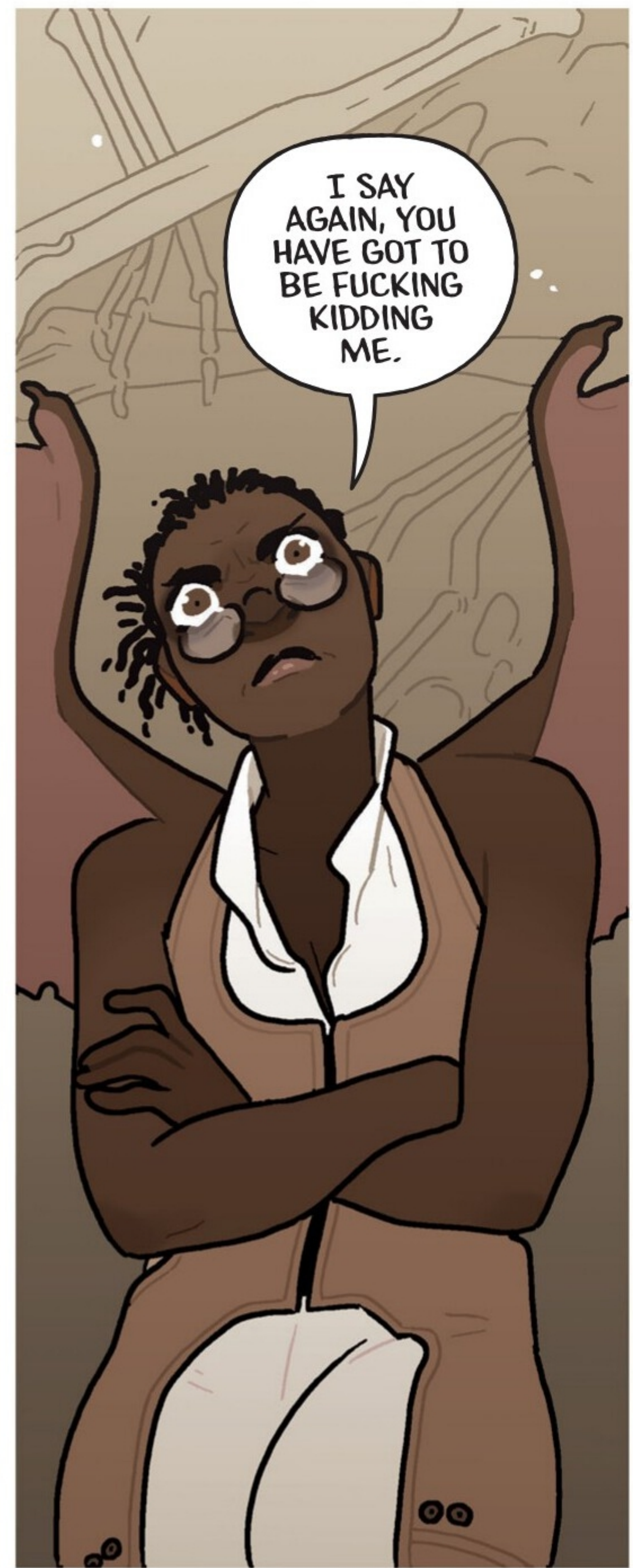


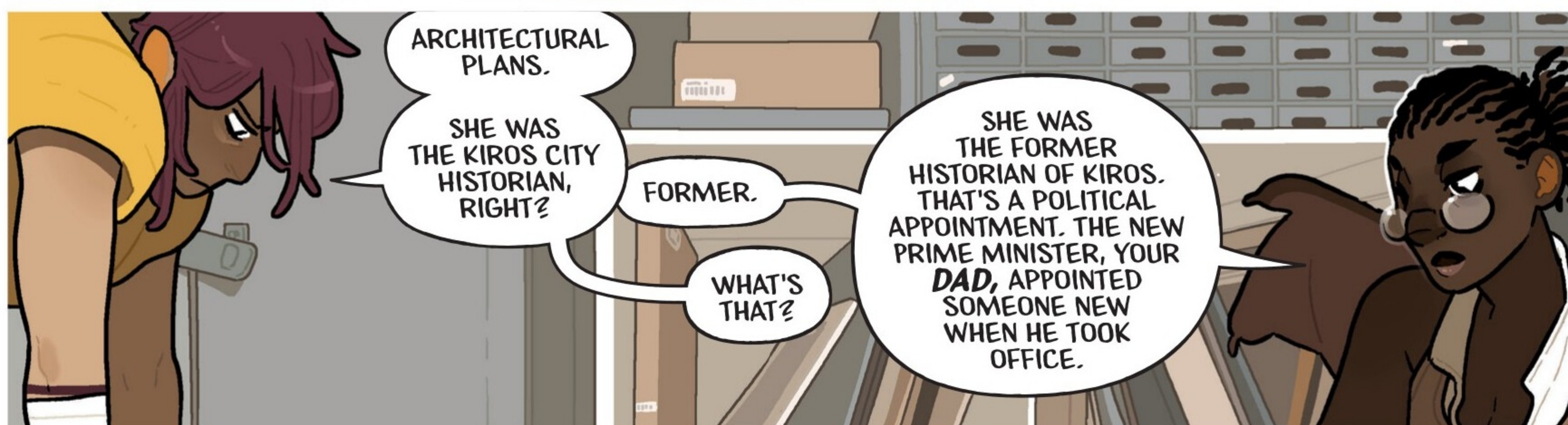
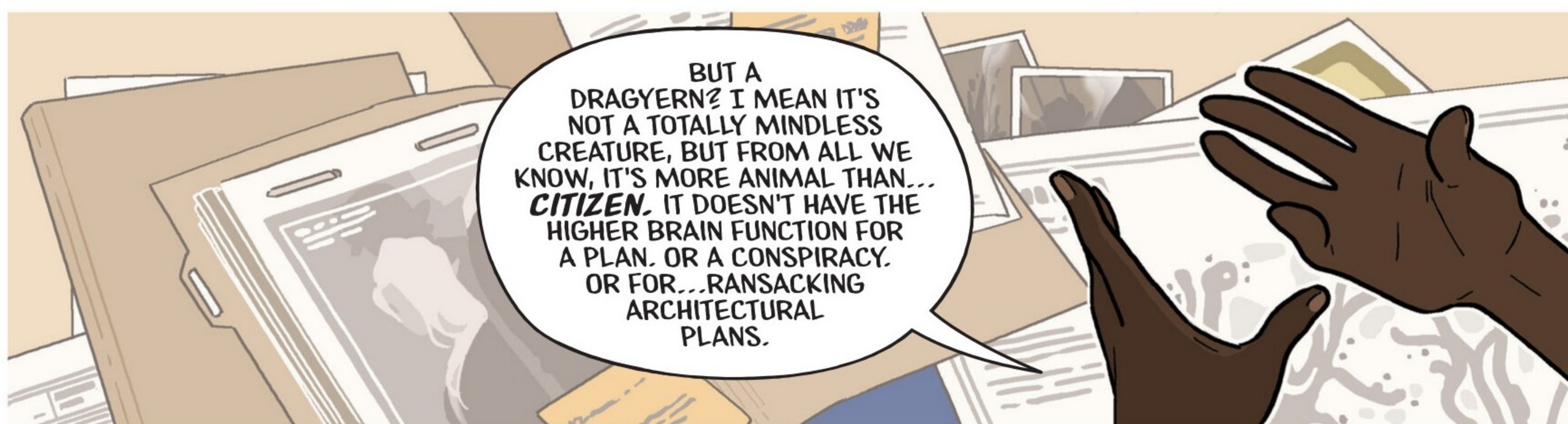
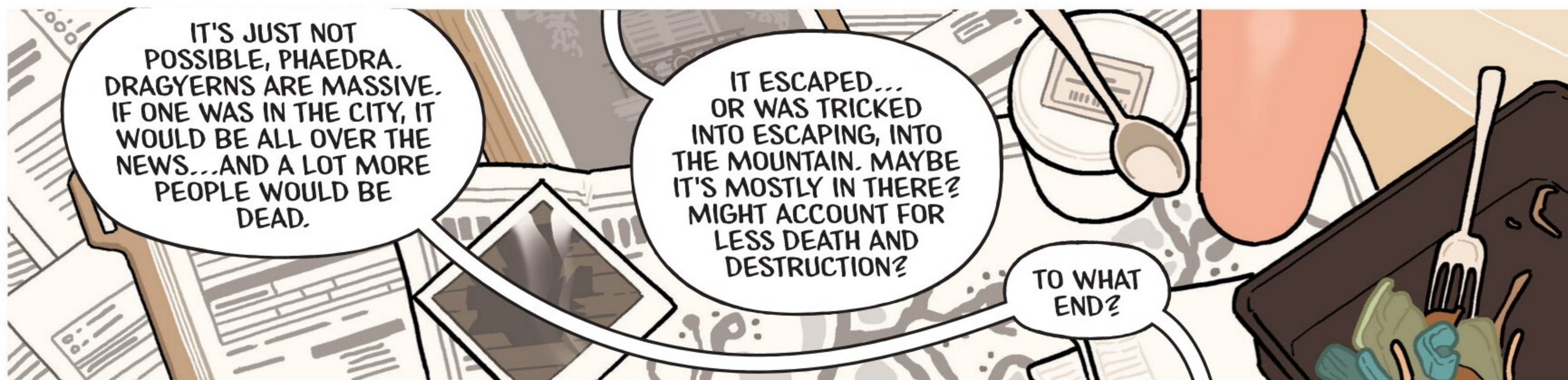
loc. >> 008.02

KIROS NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM. THE HEIGHTS.















IF YOU WANT INFORMATION ON DRAGYERN, YOU HAVE COME TO THE WRONG PLACE. BECAUSE THERE ARE NO PLACES LEFT. ALL I HAVE ARE STORIES.

STORIES CAN--

NOT HELP DETECTIVES LOOKING FOR FACTS.

JONO. THERE'S TRUTH IN STORIES, LET US DECIDE.

AND I'M TELLING YOU, ALL I HAVE ARE TALL TALES OF MY FATHER--WHO DID NOT COME HOME FROM BATTLE, MIND--BEING A HERO. YOU'RE BETTER OFF WITH YOUR MUSEUM PAMPHLET.



DA. SHINY FOR THE ARCADE, PLEASE?

ZIN, WHERE ARE YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS?

BROTHERS AND SIS--



SHINY, DA?

AH, I SEE, YOU'RE GANGING UP ON ME.



WE NEED THE SHINY, DAD!

I CAN'T TAKE YOU TO THE ARCADE NOW, KIDS, I'M WORKING.

JOYA TAKES US, WE JUST NEED MORE SHINY!

C'MON, DAD!

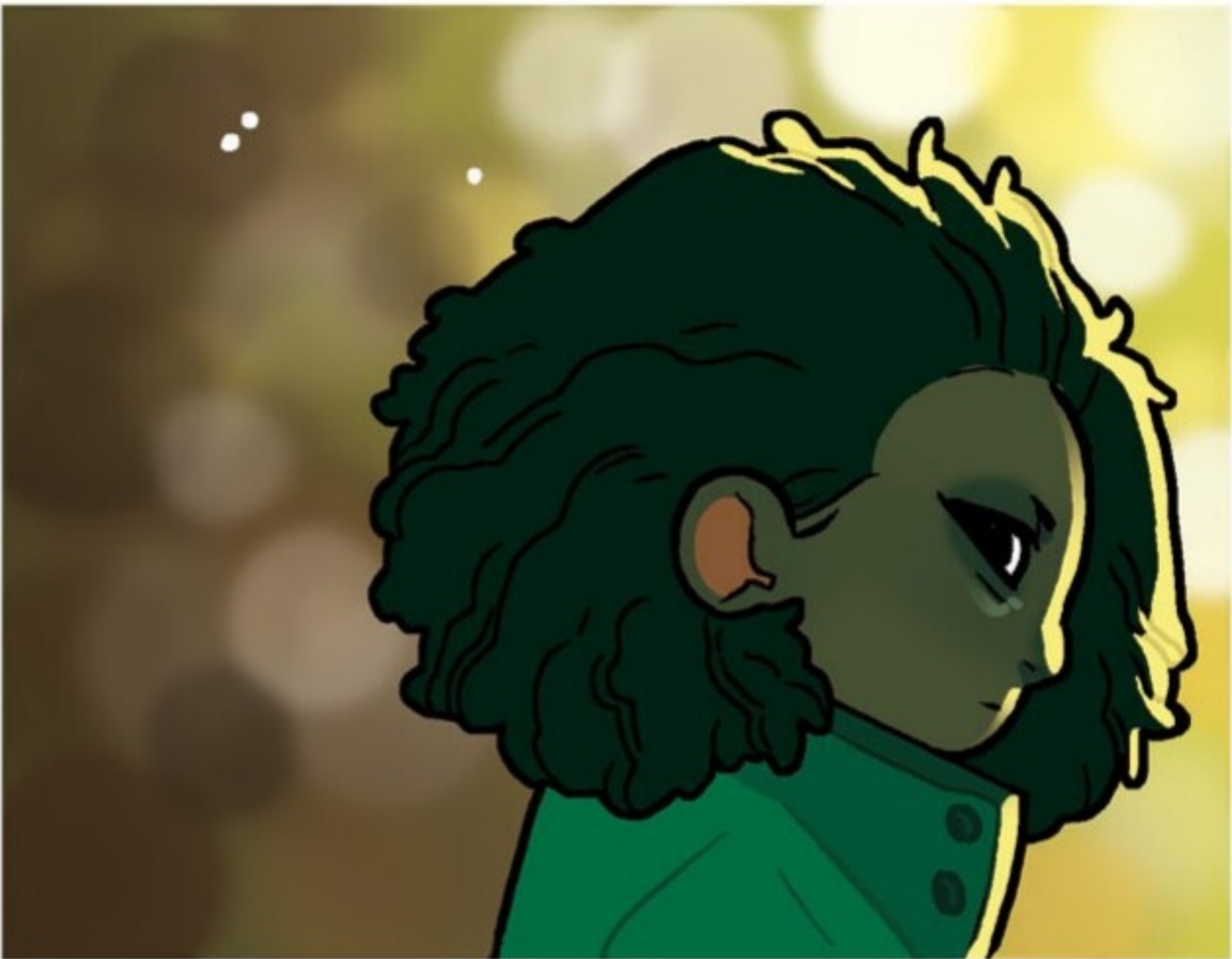


YEAH! DA'S THE BEST!

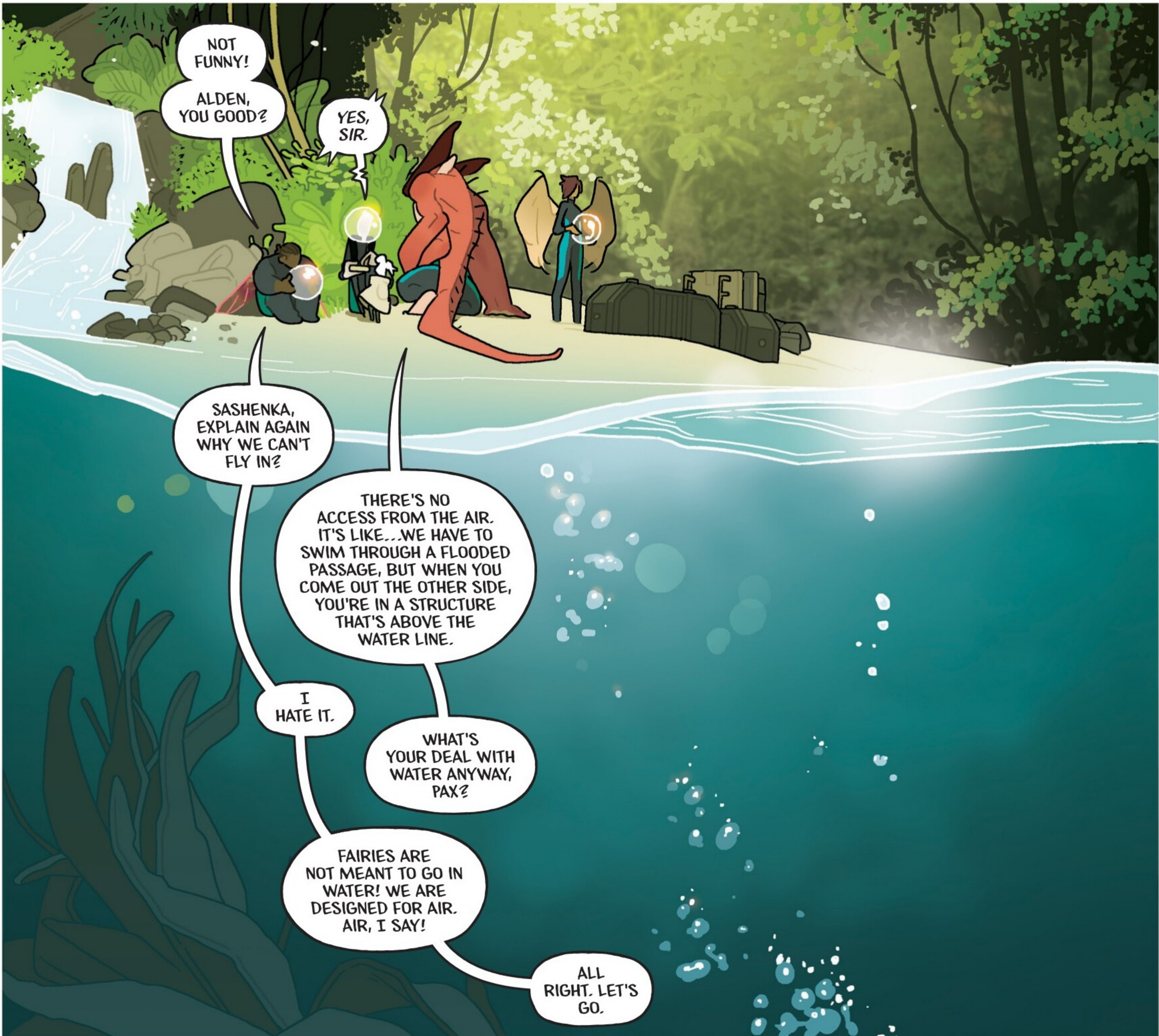
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. BUT JUST A LITTLE. AND NO SWEETS.

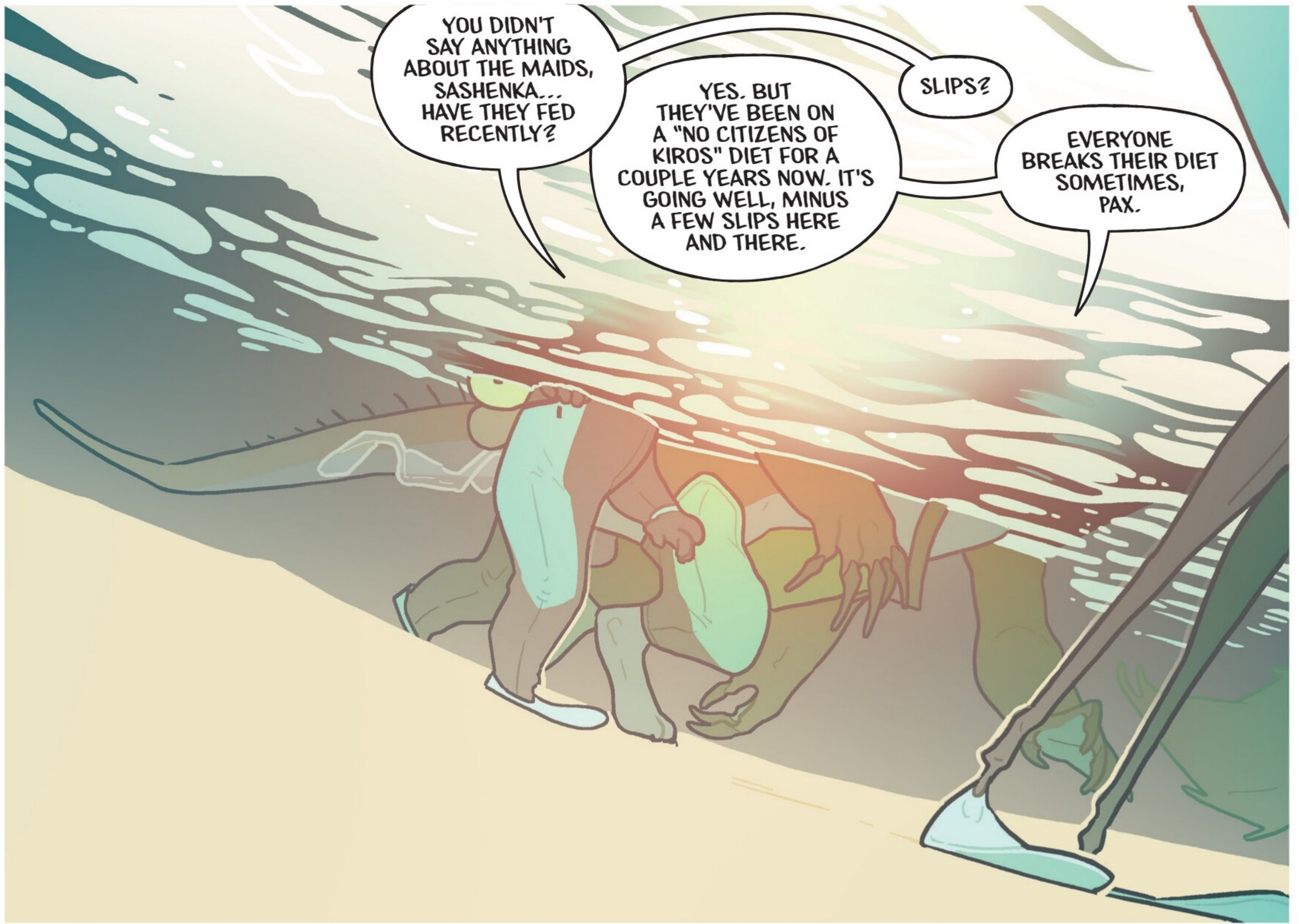
AW, DA.

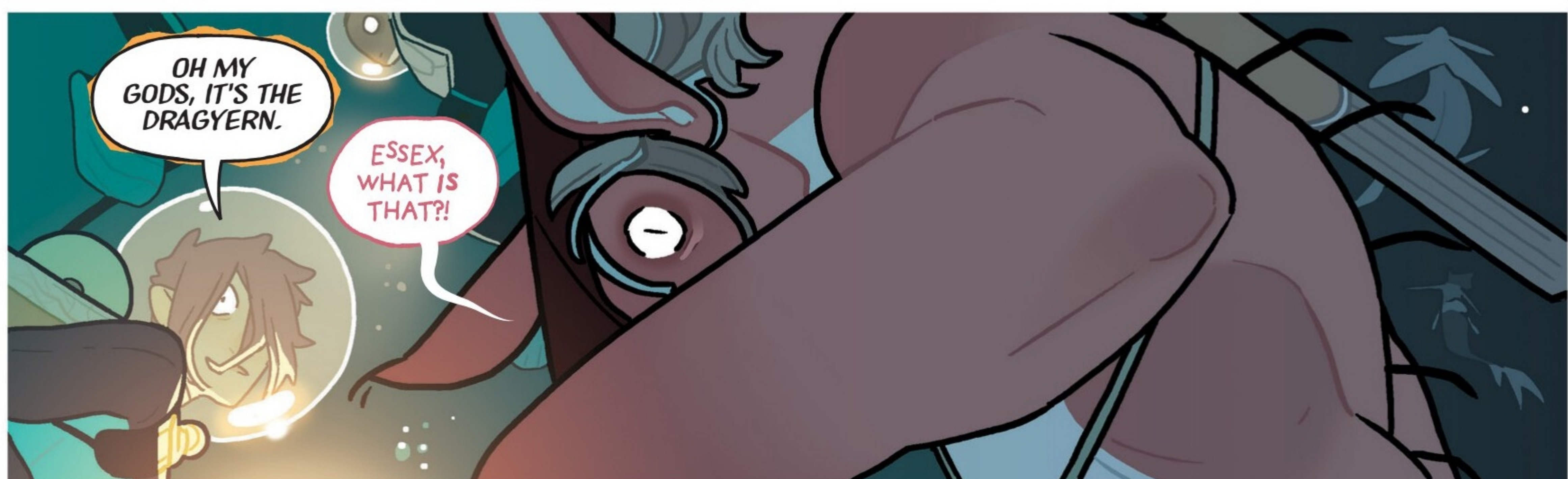
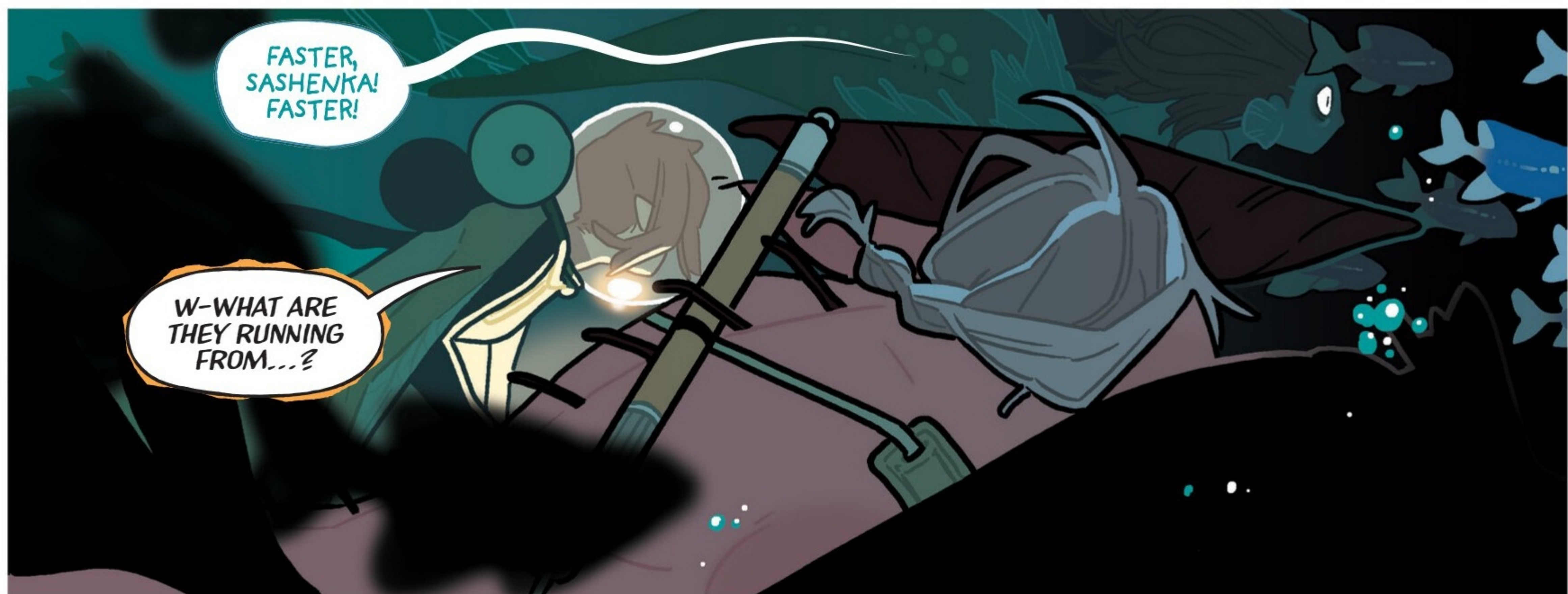
ESPECIALLY YOU, LITTLE ONE!



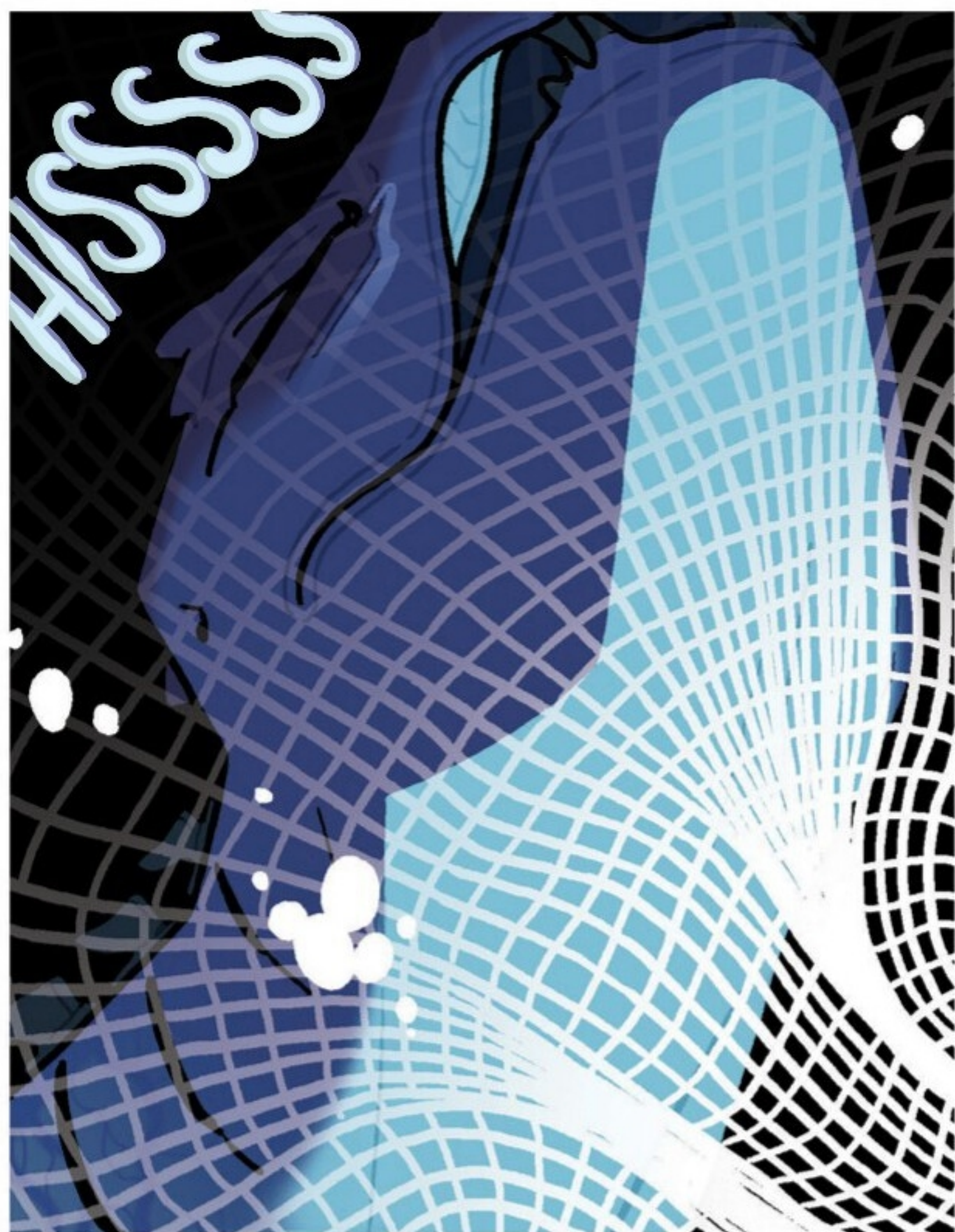


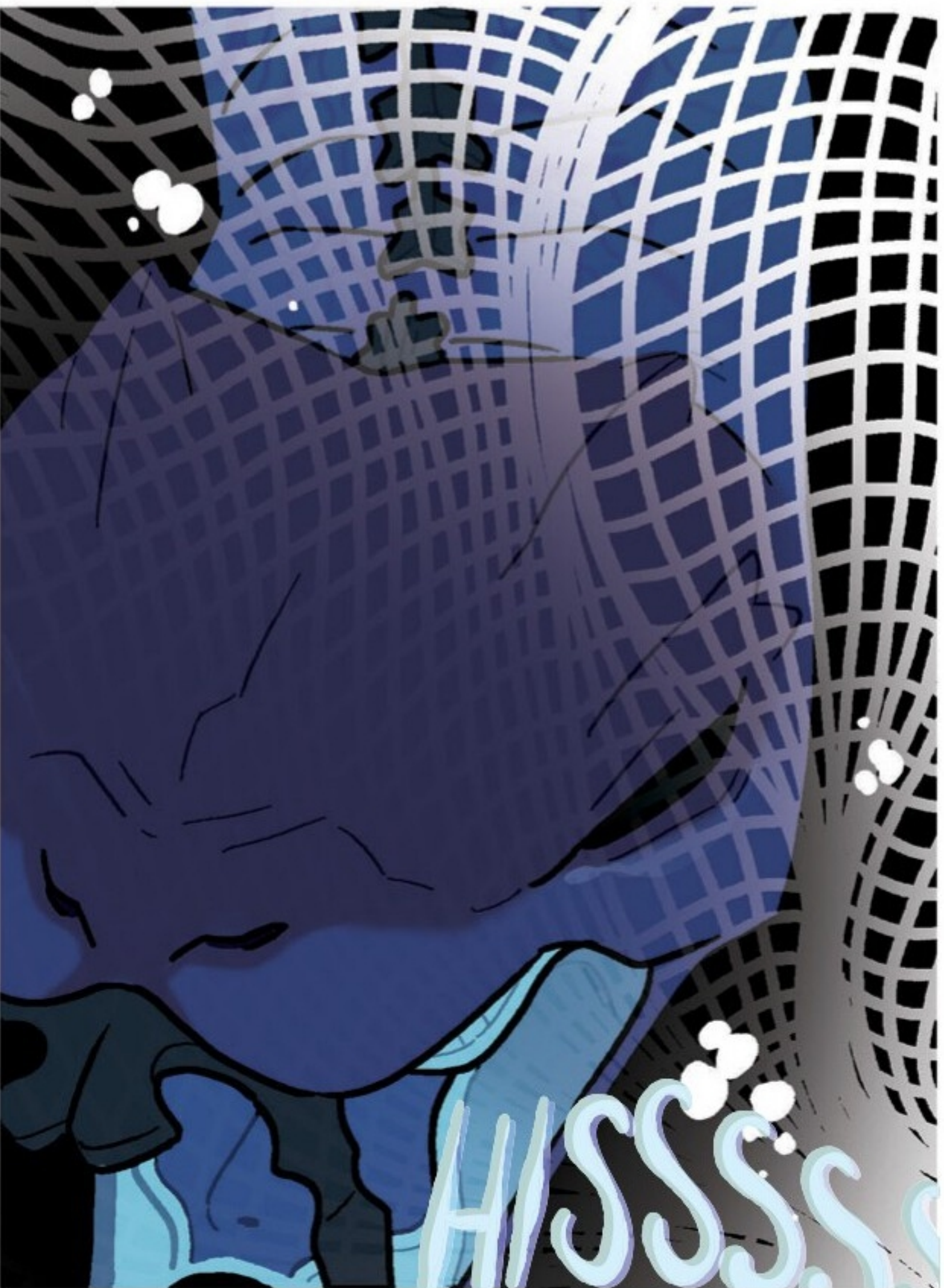
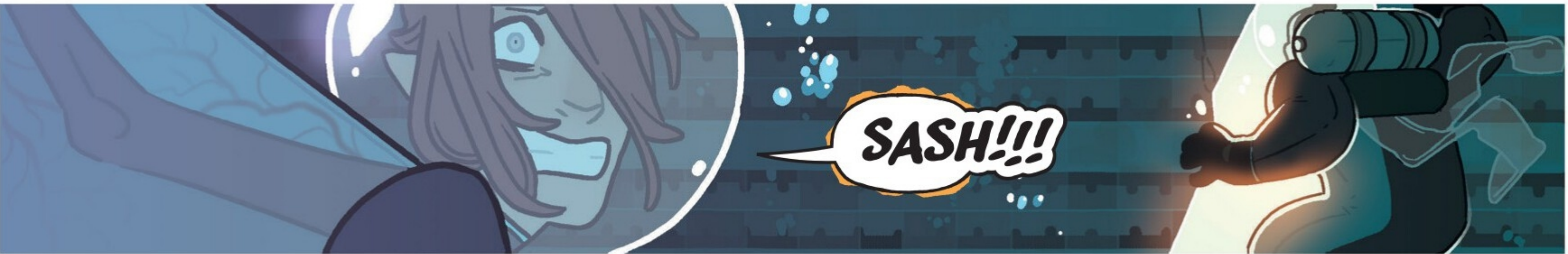






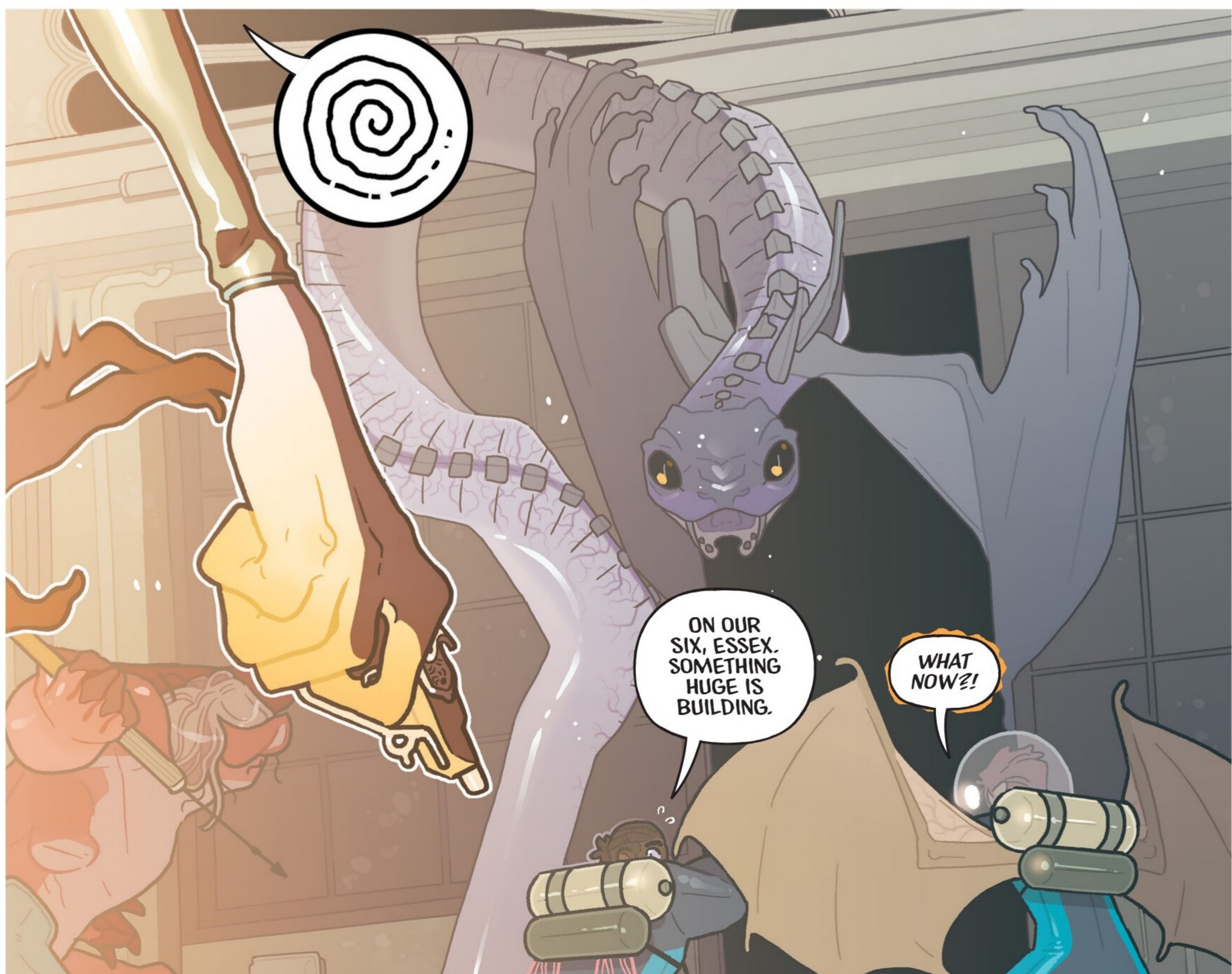




















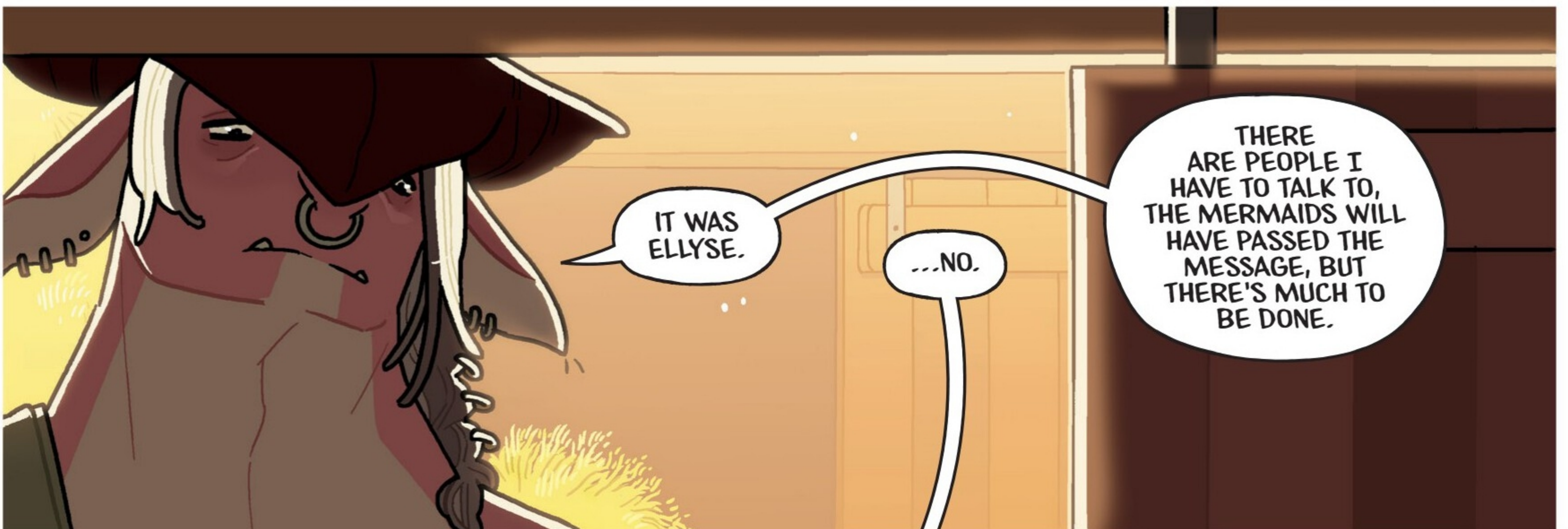
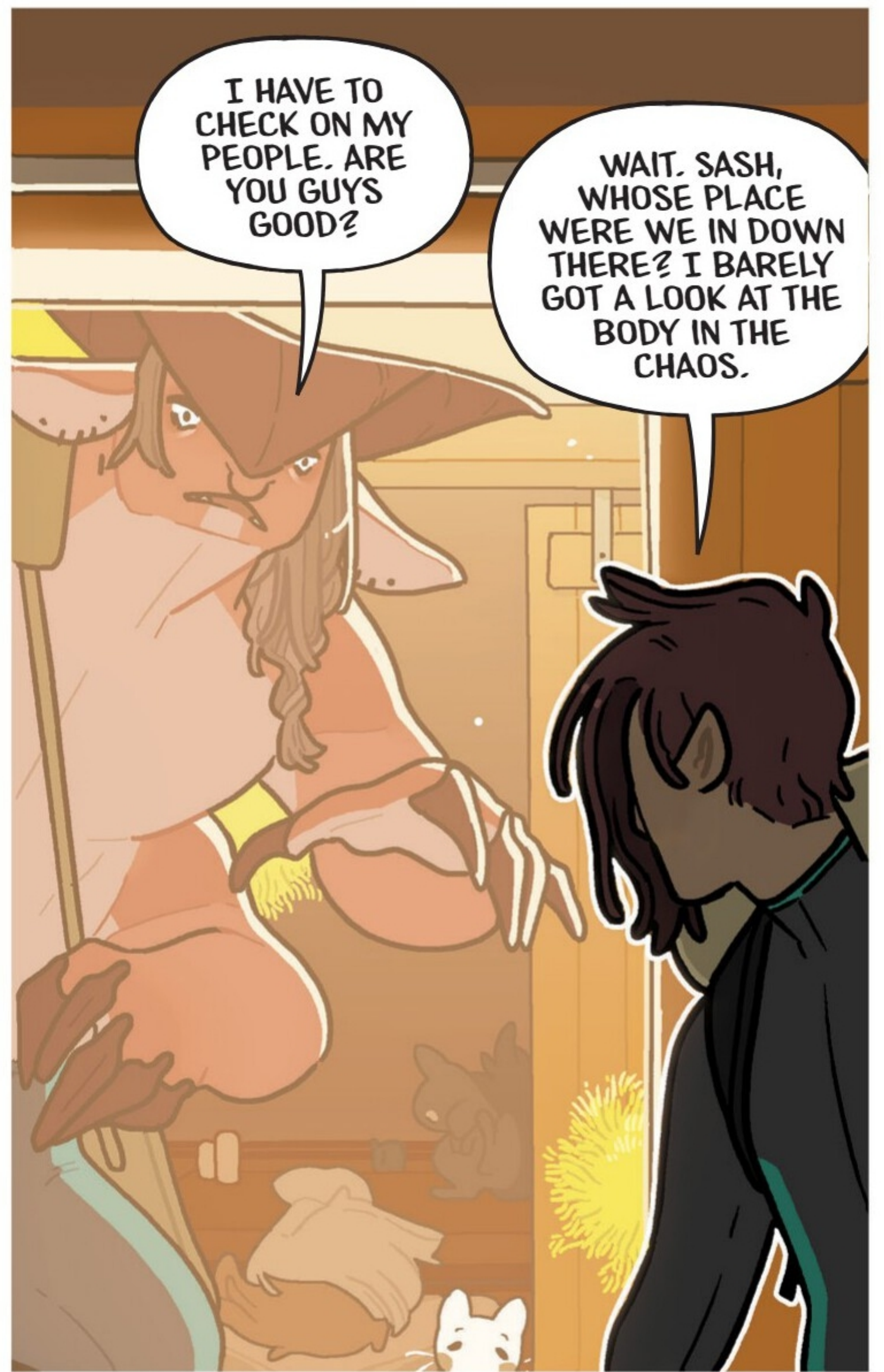
loc. >> 009.01

VALORIE'S MAGICK SHOPPE. THE NARROWS.

DID YOU
COUNT THESE
TAKA, VAL? ARE
WE SURE WE
HAVE THEM
ALL?

I'M NOT
WORRIED.
THEY'RE SAVVIER
THAN THEY
LOOK.













loc. >> 009.02
KIROS
SUPERMAX
PRISON.

OH,
YOU'VE GOT
TO BE KIDDING
ME. PLEASE
TELL ME IT'S
NOT--

YOU
KNOW
IT IS.

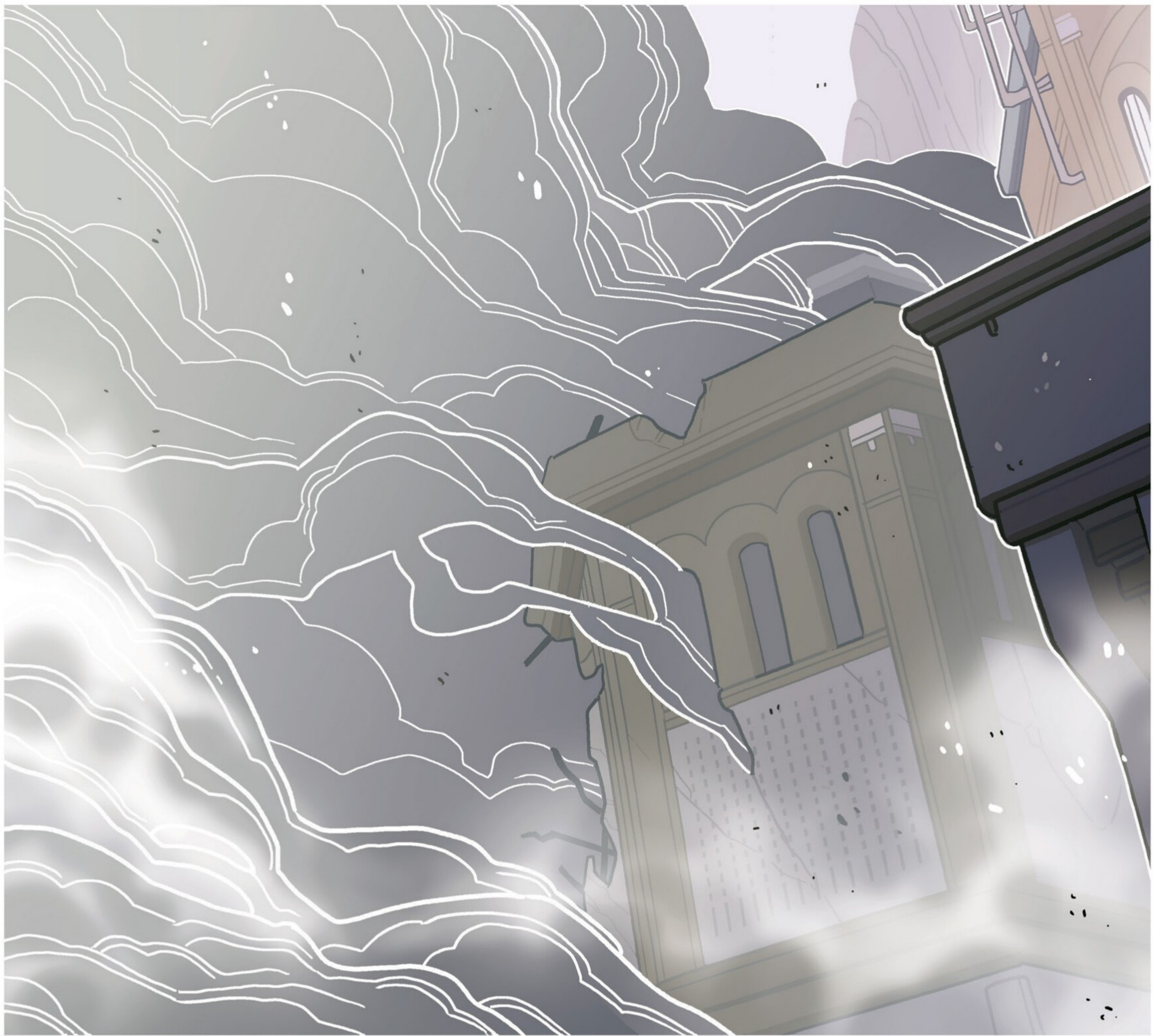
UM...
PAX?

TELL ME
THOSE AREN'T
DRAGYERN
BURROWED
TUNNELS.

HOLY
SHIT.











AH,
#@\$%.



INDEED. IT
SEEMS WE'RE
A PART OF ALL OF
THIS MESS, SO WE
NEED TO MOVE
THIS ALONG.
HASTY.

YEAH,
YEAH.
ON IT.

LEDRA TO
THE FRONT.
HASTY. CODE
BLACK.

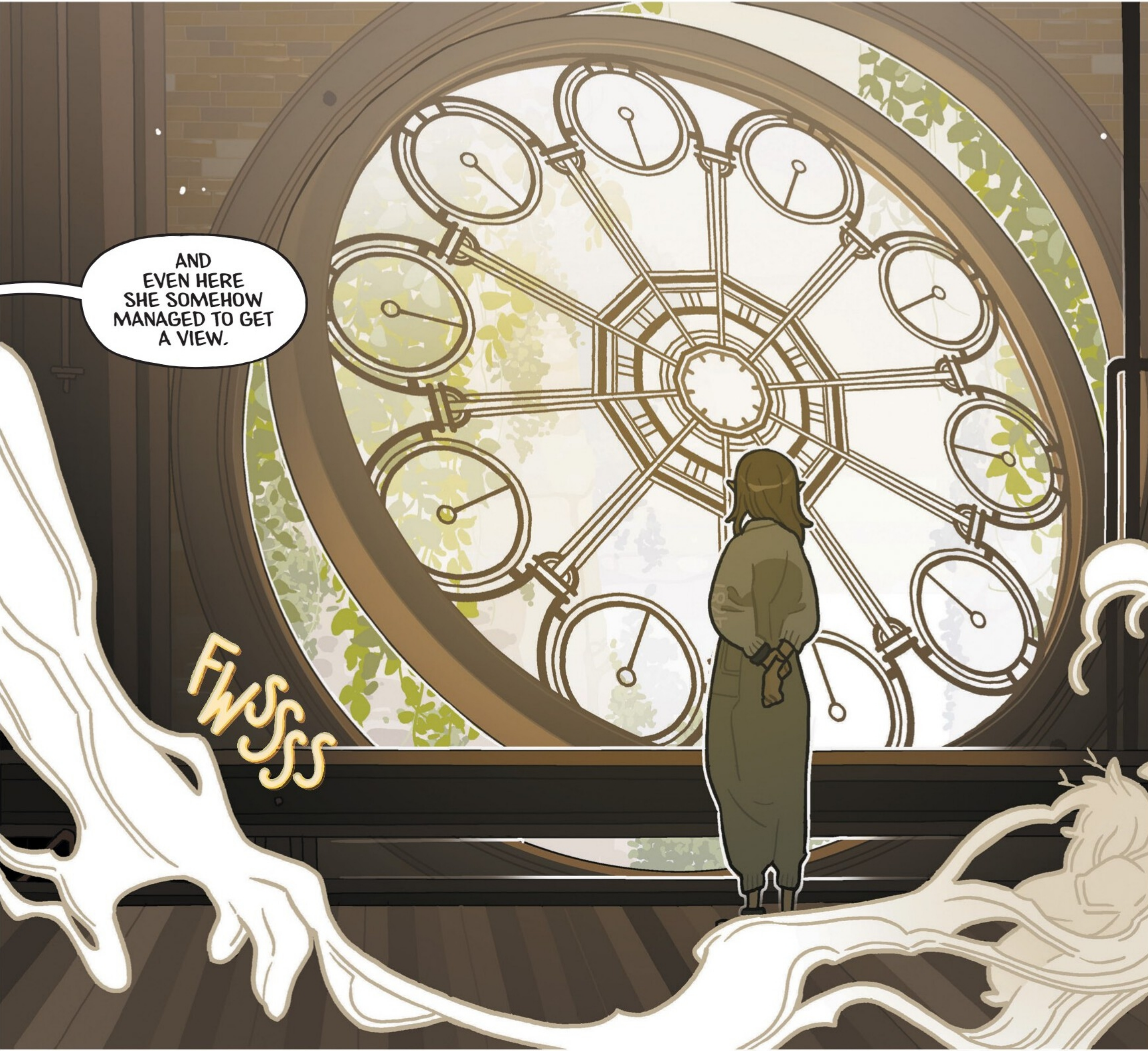


YOU HAVE
MAGIC FOR
TELEPORTATION?

PART OF THE
MAGIC RESERVES
FOR PRISON SECURITY. IT
ALLOWS SPRITES FASTER
AND MORE ACCURATE
TELEPORTING...AND
THE ABILITY TO MOVE
OTHERS WITH
THEM.

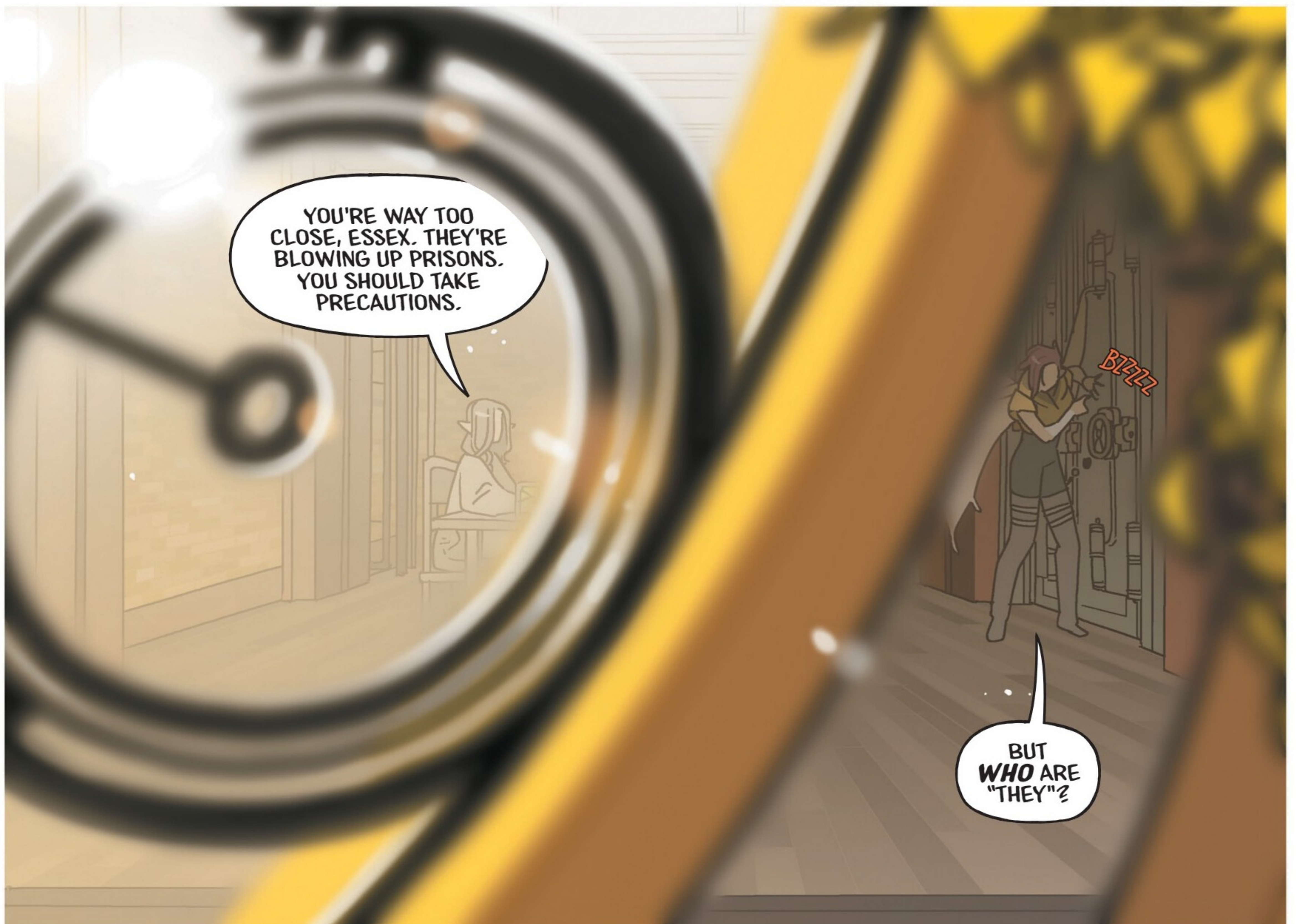
BUT TODAY
IS TAXING US TO
OUR LIMITS.

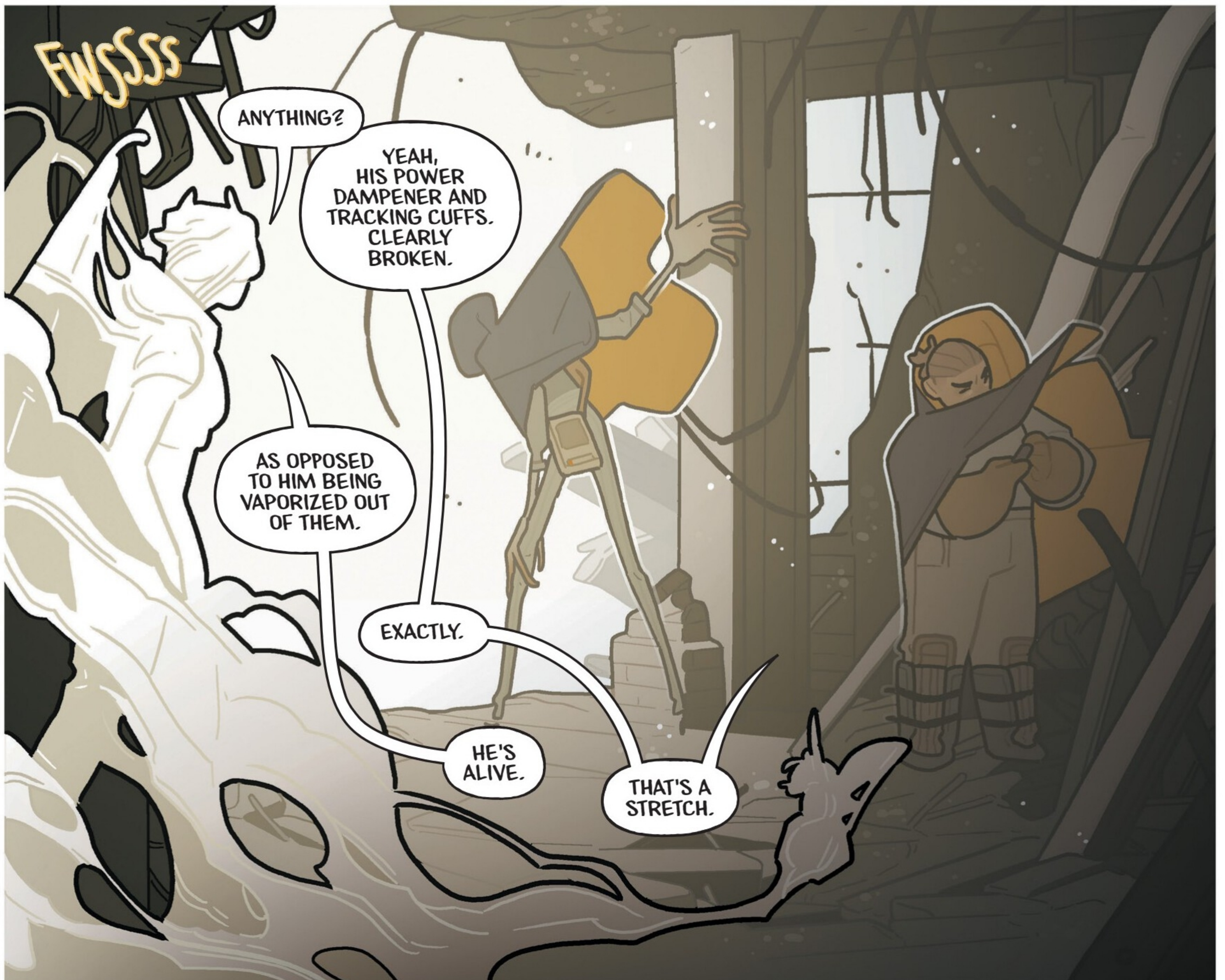
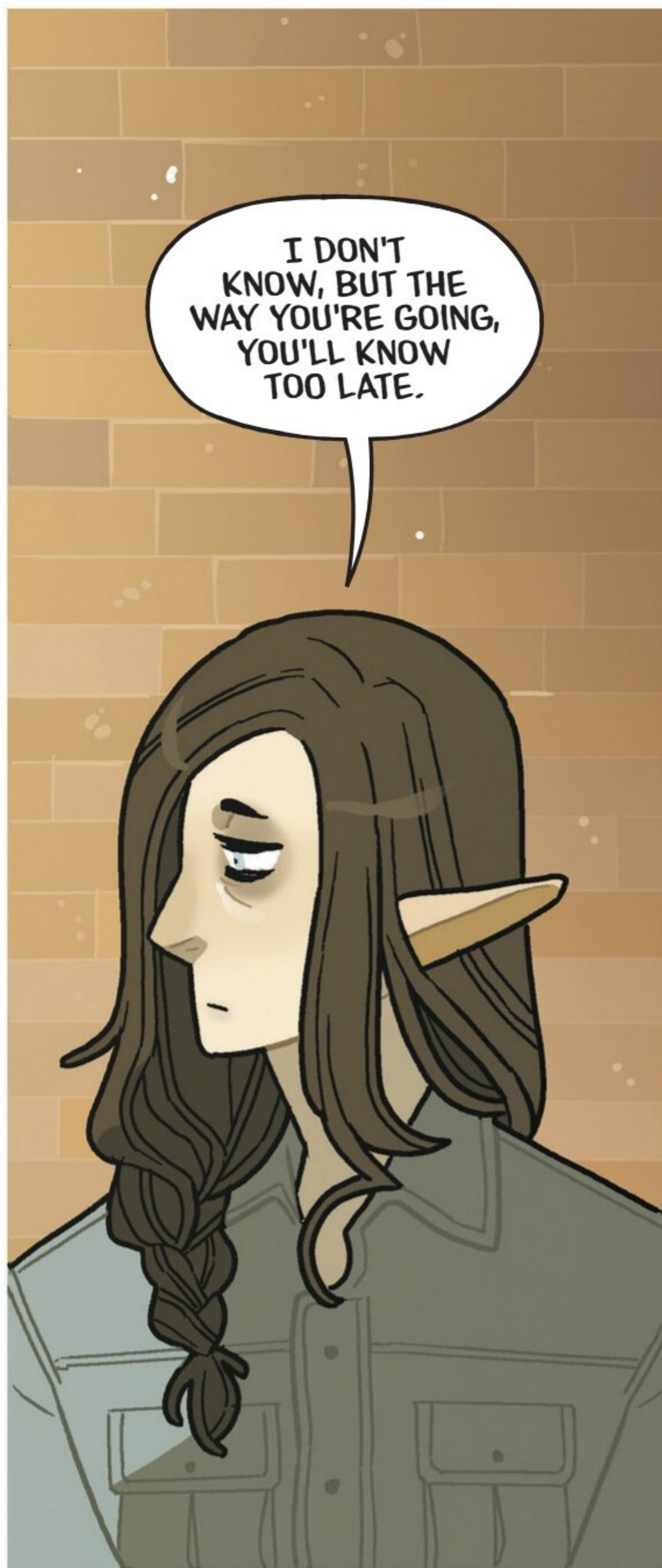
FWSSS







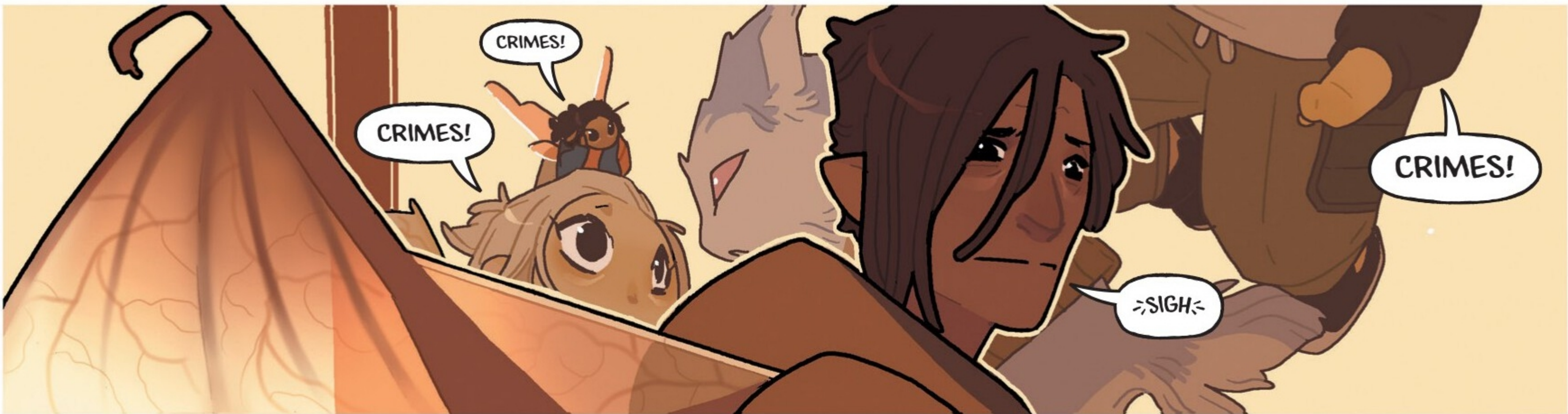




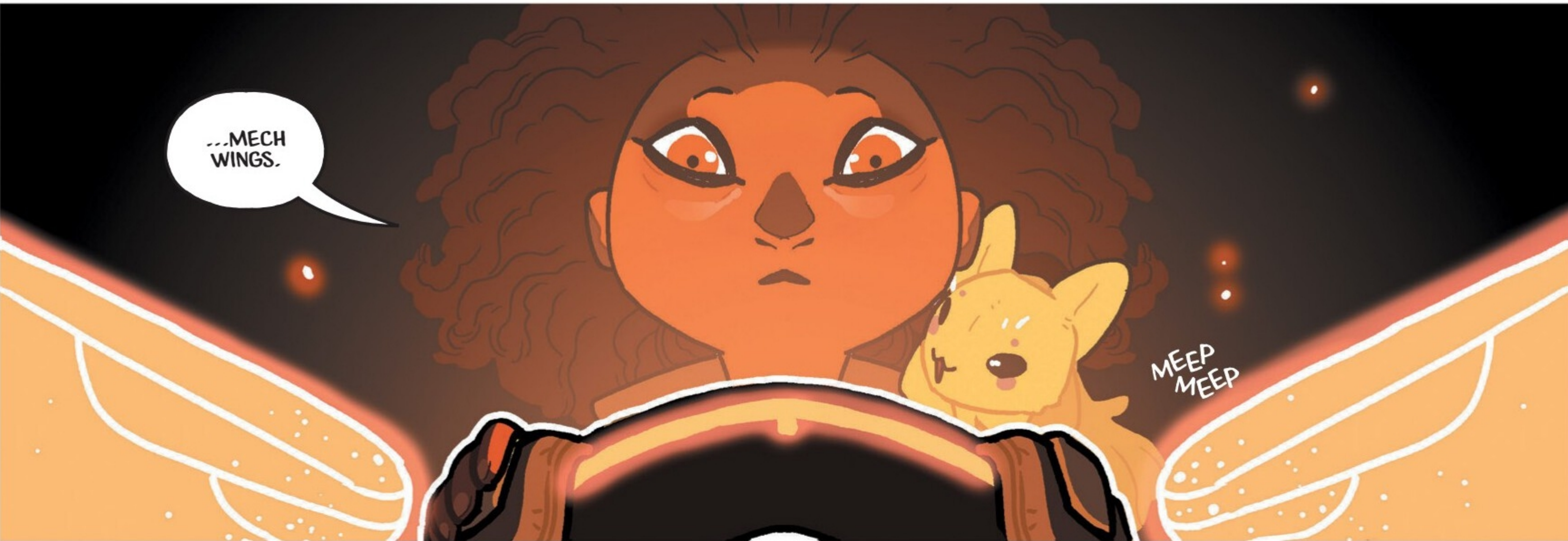




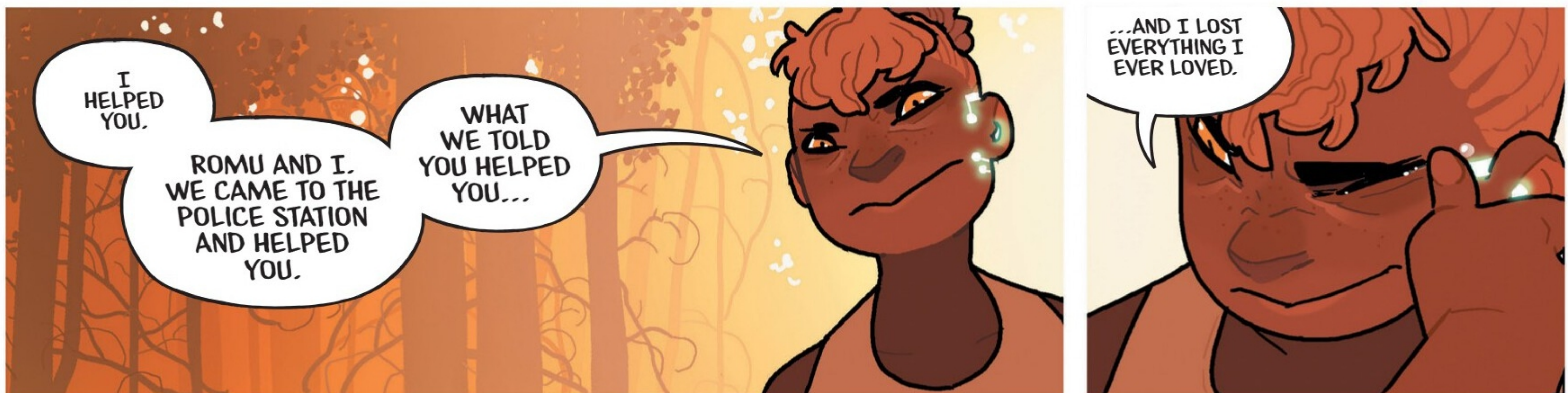






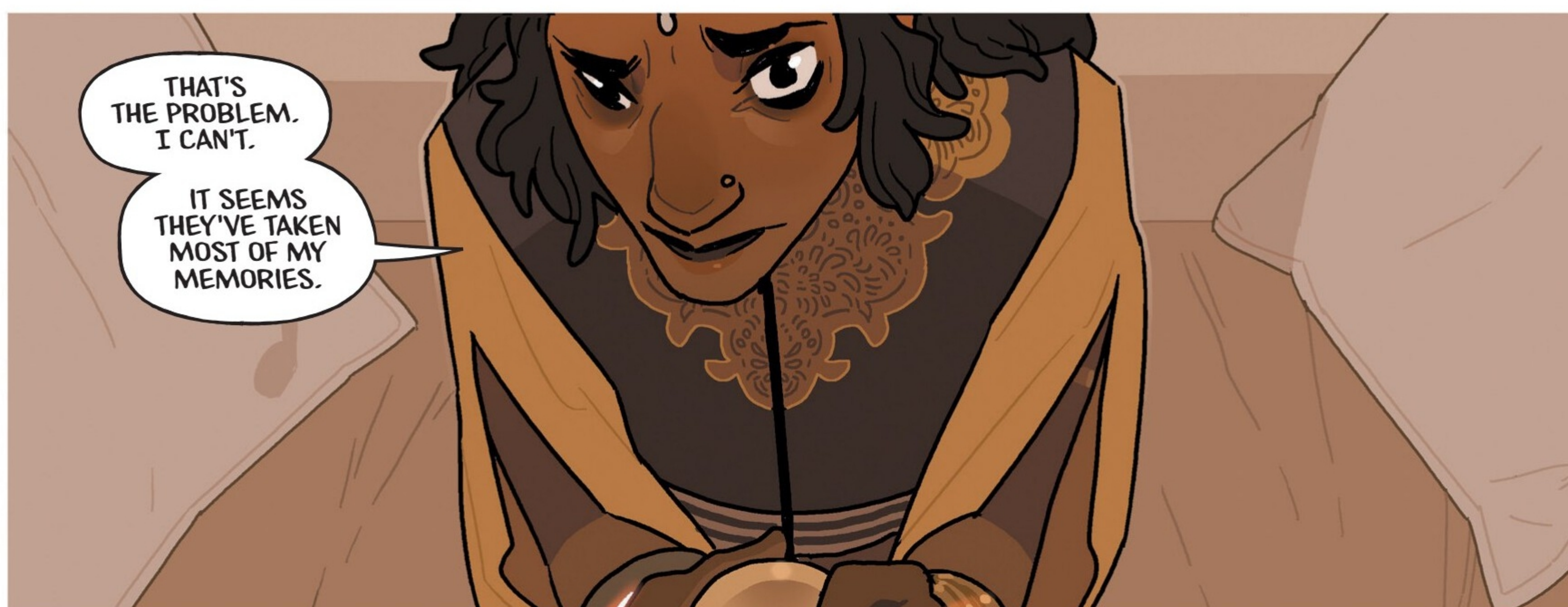
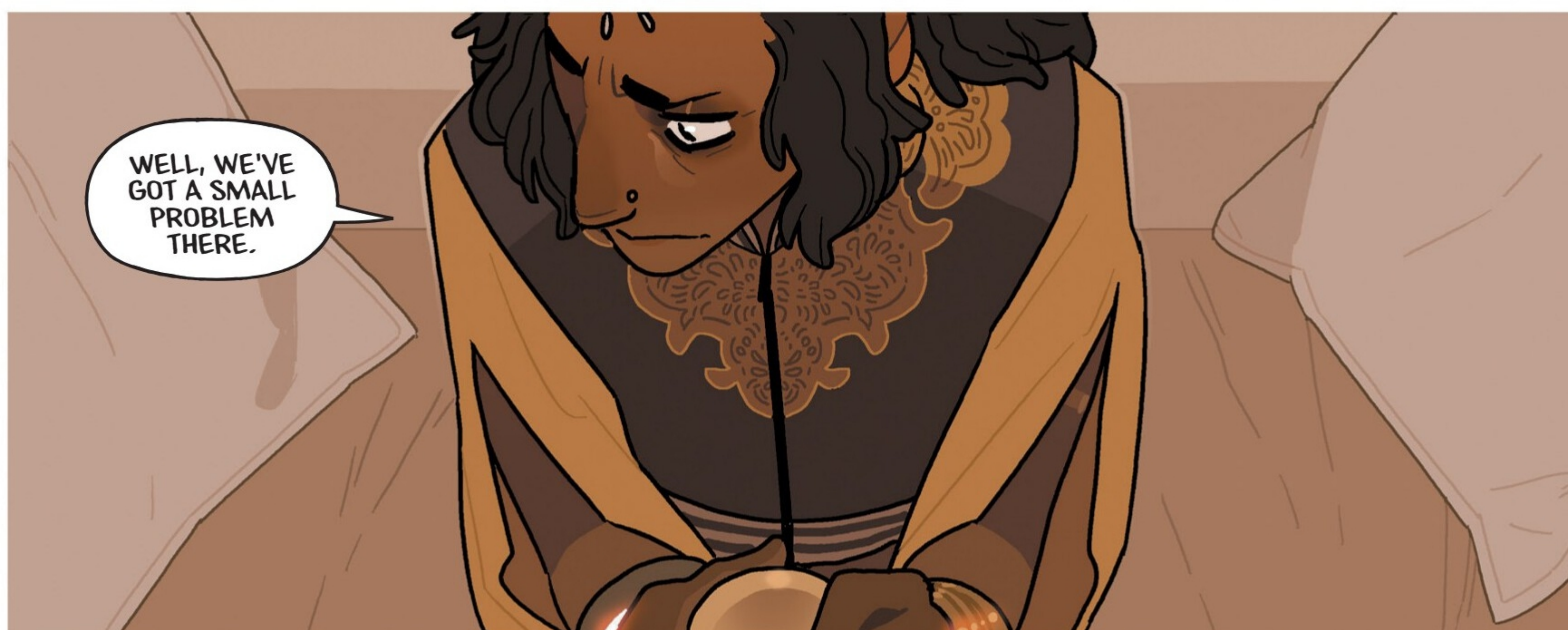


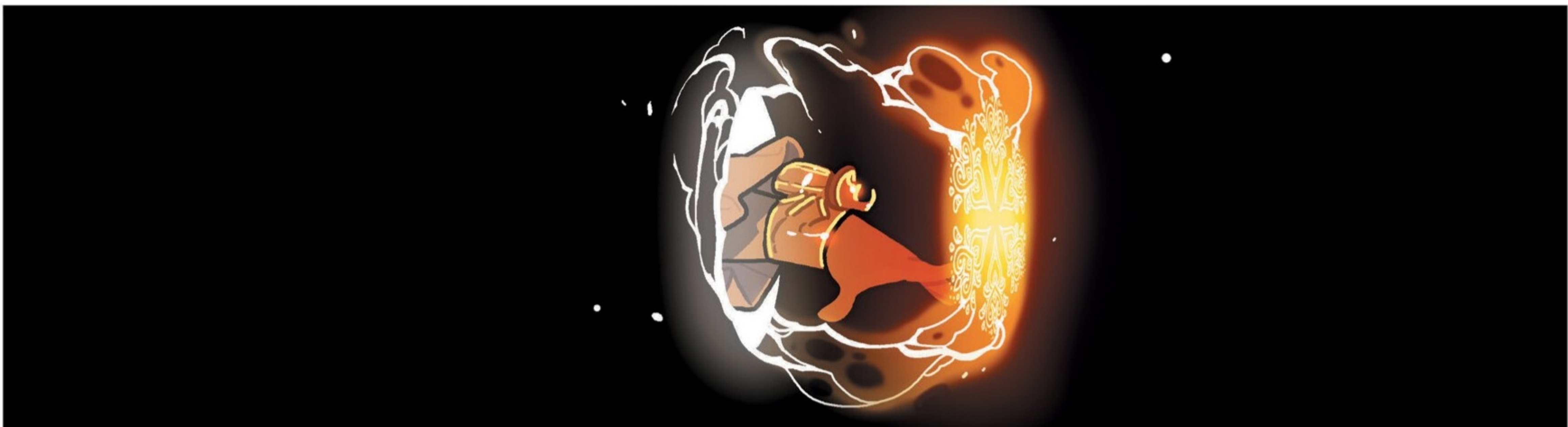






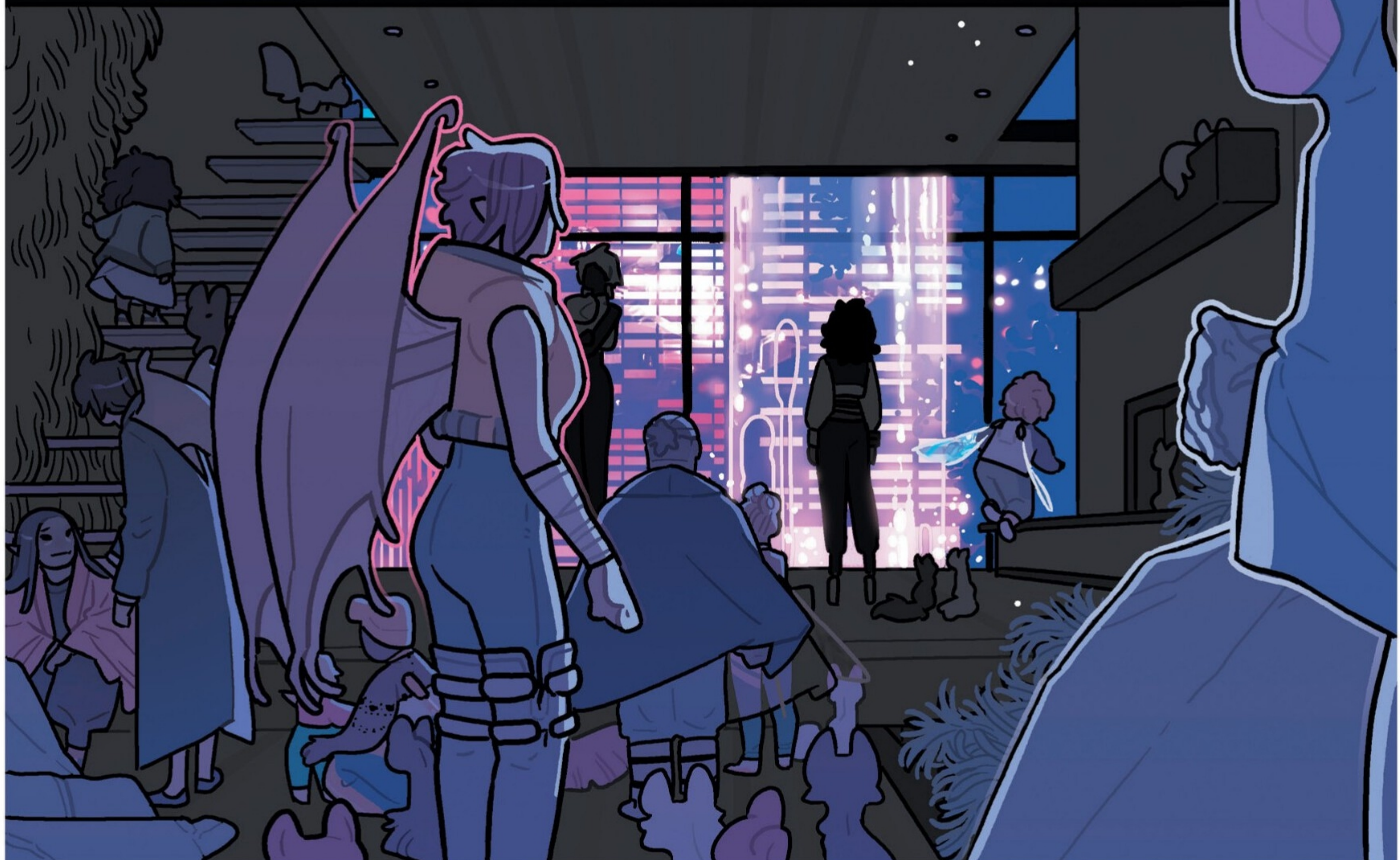


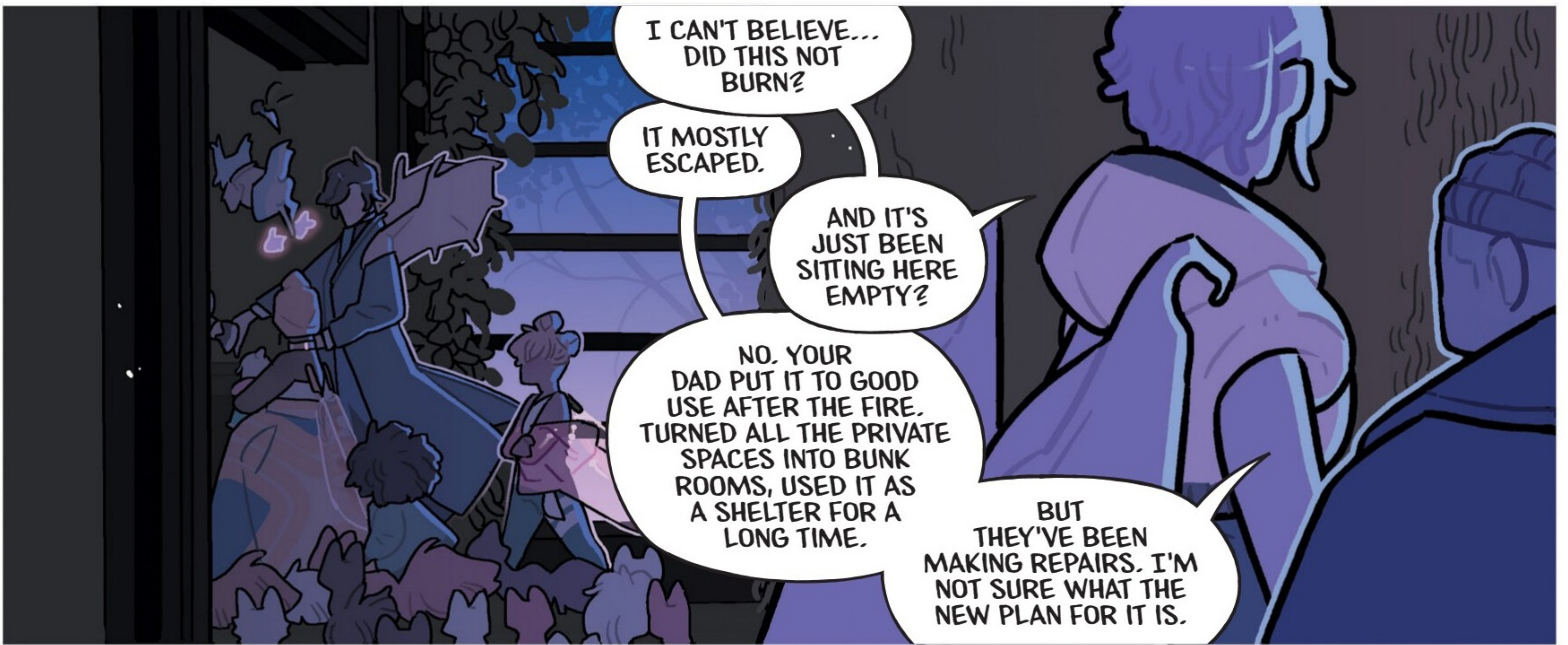




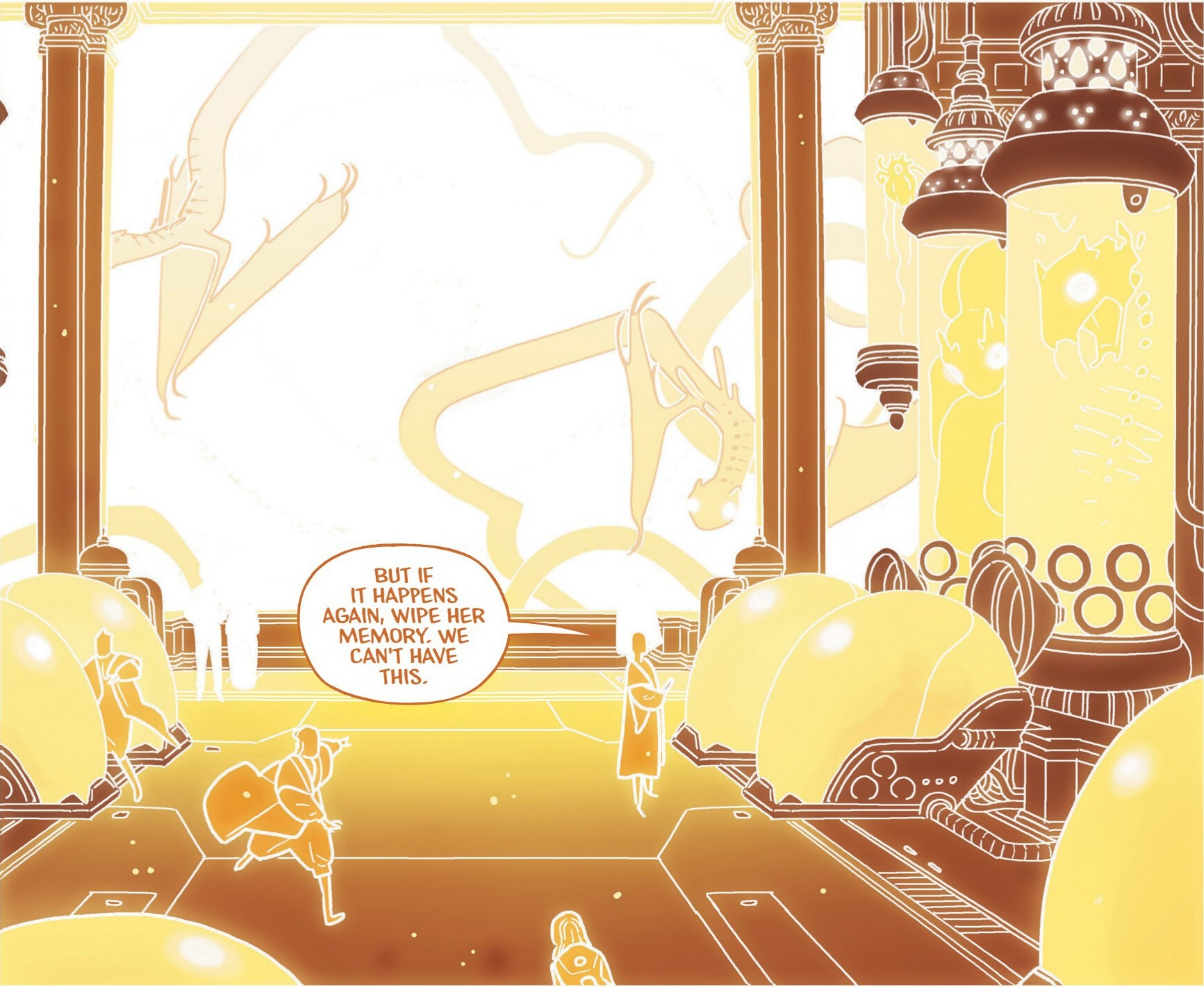
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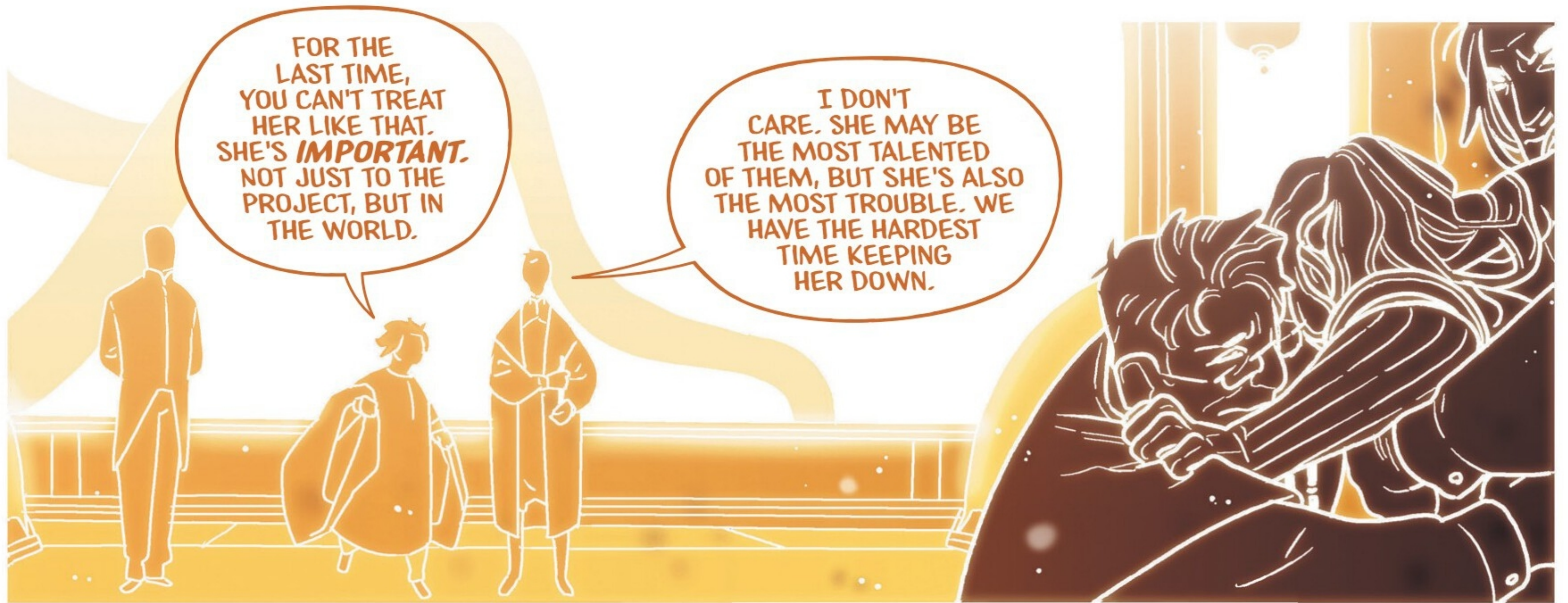
FORMER HOME OF
PHINNEAS III OF THANE,
THE TREES.

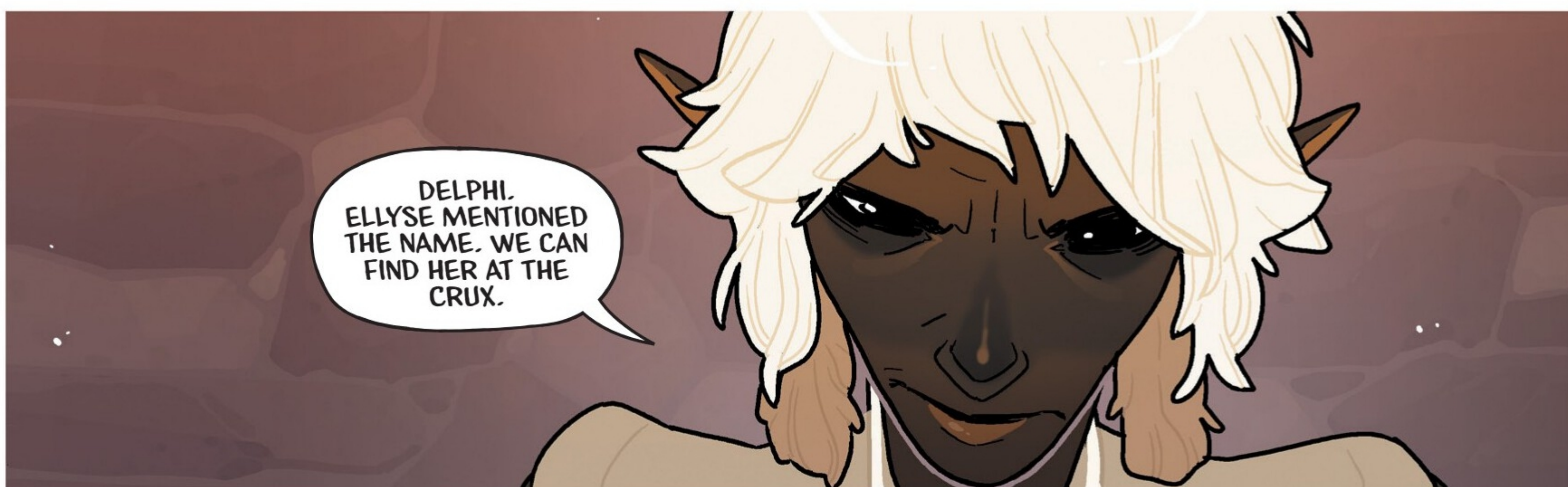


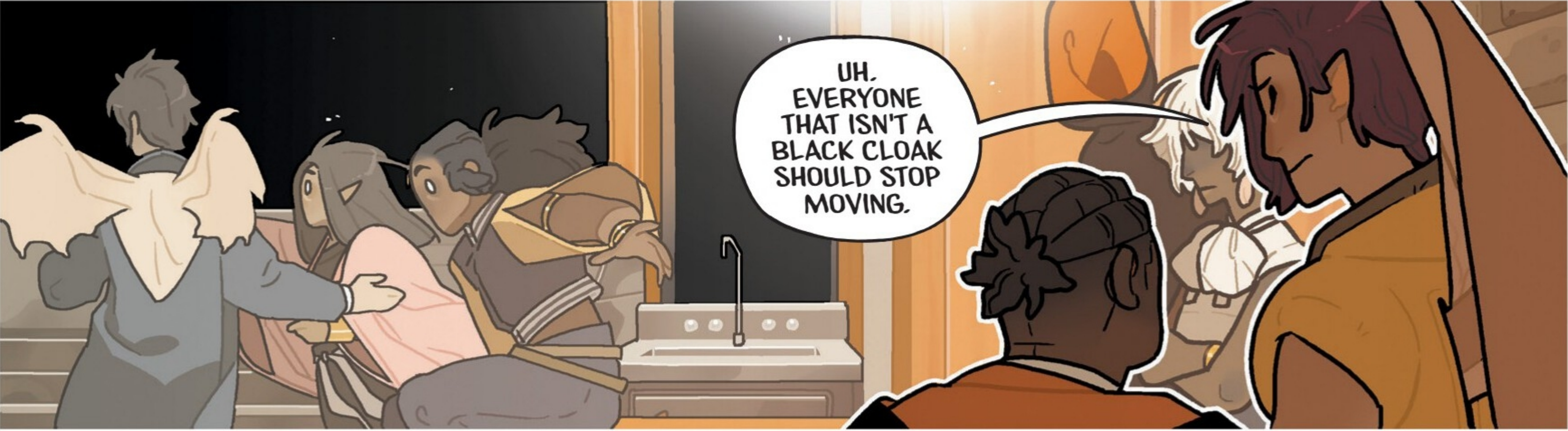


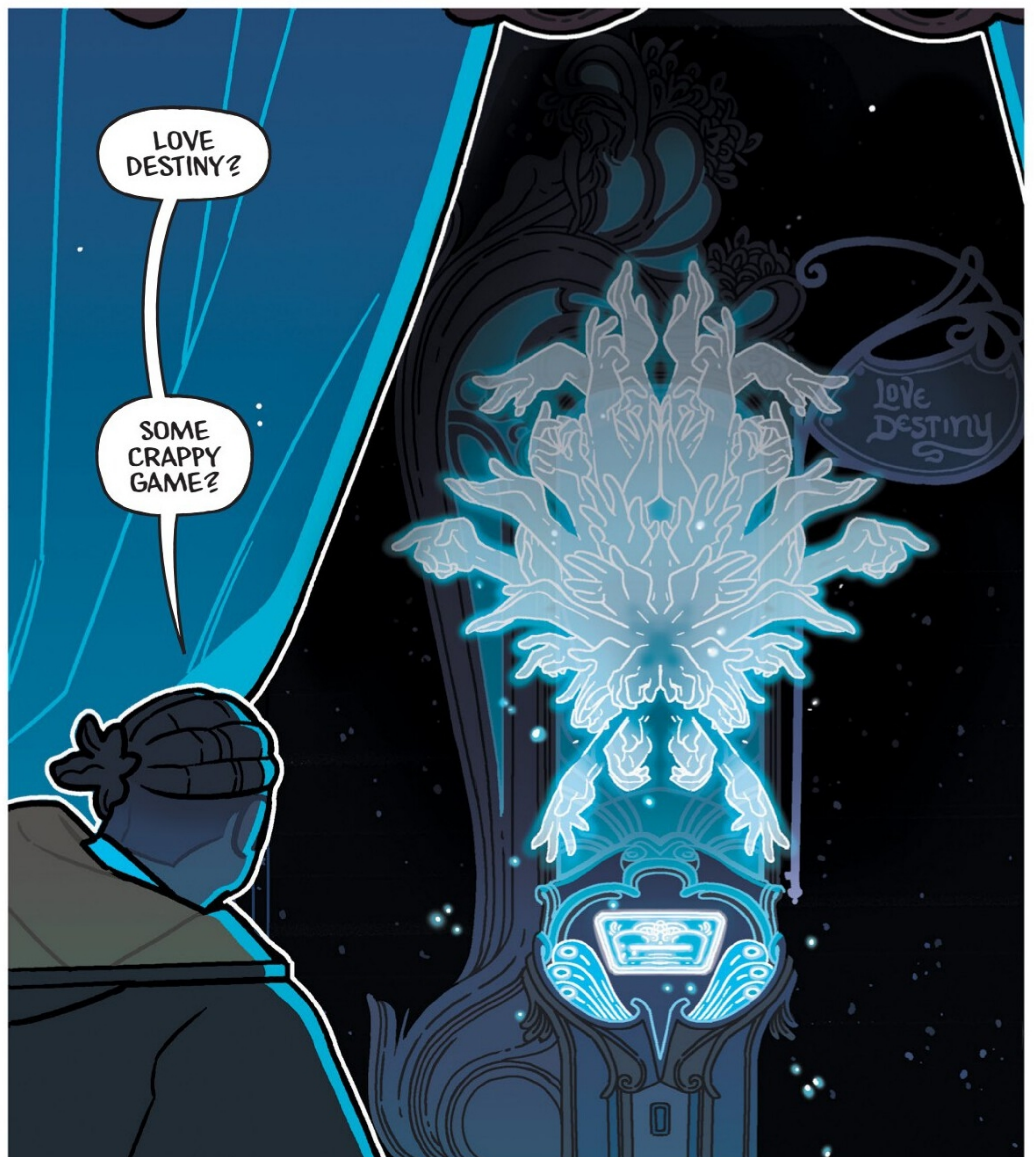
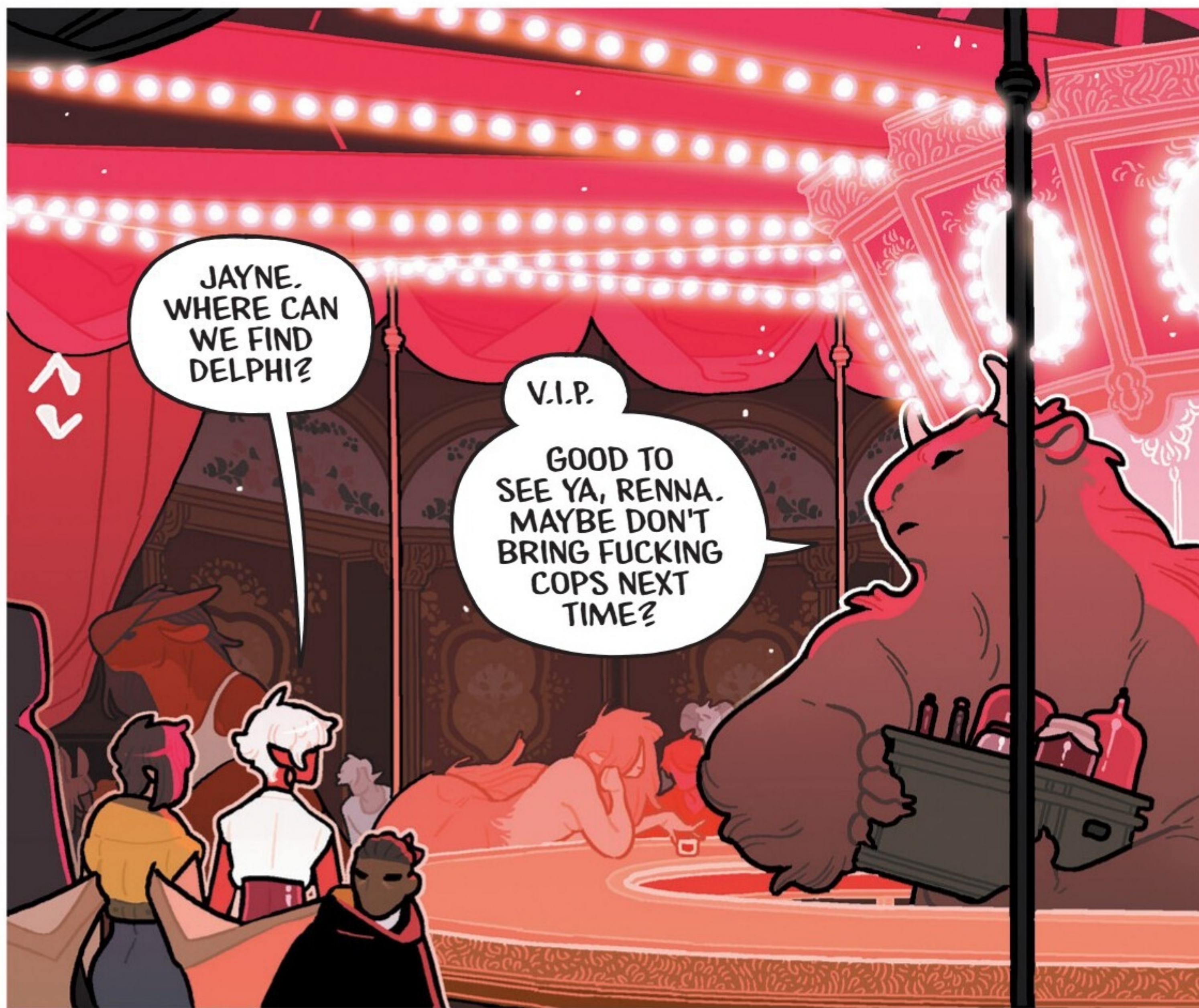






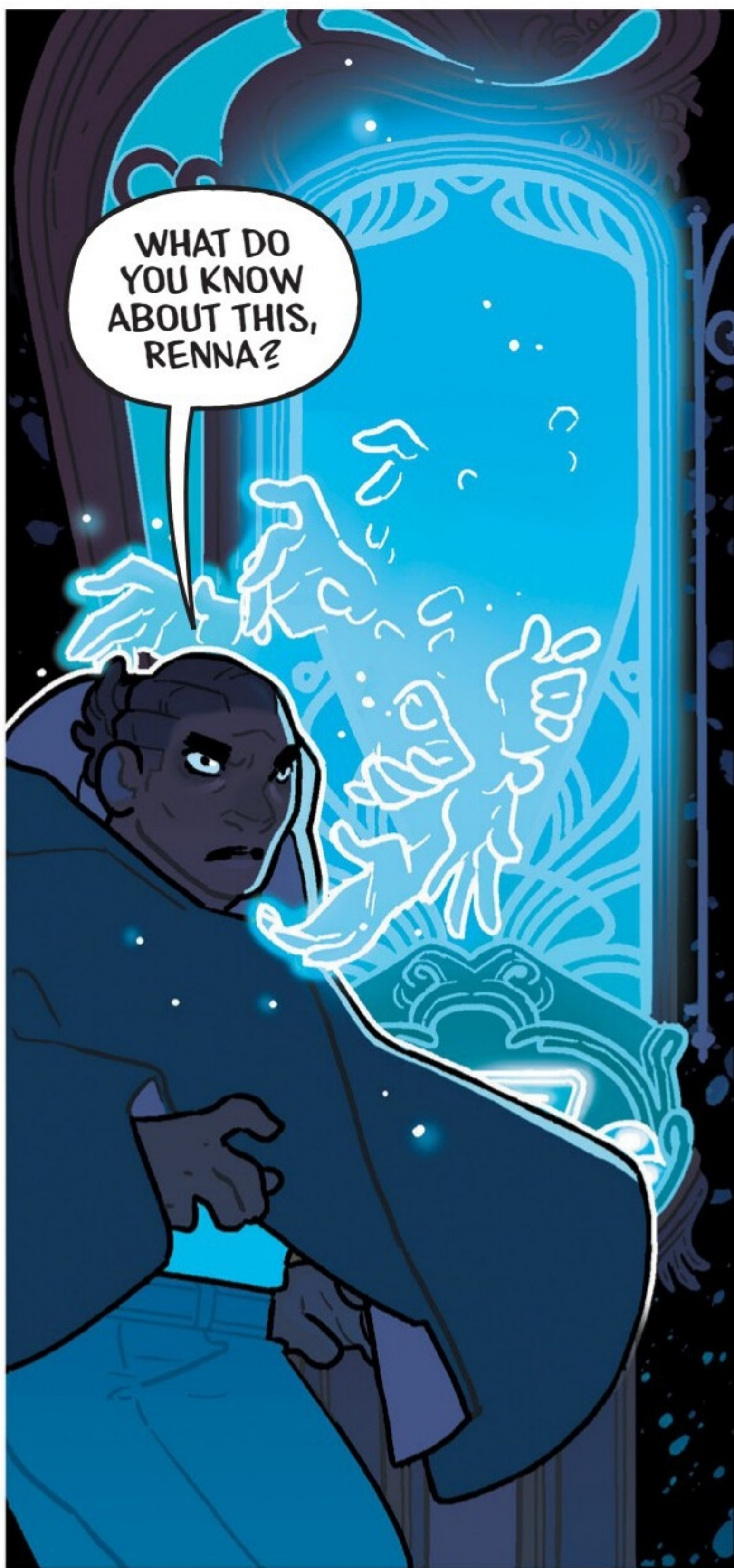








UH,
YOU SURE
YOU WANNA DO
THAT, BLACK
CLOAK?



WHAT DO
YOU KNOW
ABOUT THIS,
RENNA?



THIS?
NOTHING.

BUT I'VE
SEEN THINGS
THAT ARE A FRONT
FOR ANOTHER THING
BEFORE. CERTAINLY
YOU BOTH
HAVE.



SO A
FAKE GAME.
TO TEST
WHAT?

MAGICAL
ACUITY?
SENSITIVITY?

MAKES
SENSE. HOW
DO WE
VERIFY?



ALDEN.

YOU UP TO
"READ" THIS
THING?







I SENT A UNIT TO THE VERIS ESTATE. I THINK WE'LL BEAT THEM THERE, BUT ONLY JUST.



PAX. LOOK, MORE DRAGYERN SIGN BELOW.

WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT, ESSEX.



I'M SERIOUS. YOUR EYES ARE BETTER, COME BACK HERE, THERE'S A LOT OF THEM.



...YOU'RE RIGHT. THAT'S A LOT. THAT'S NOT JUST ONE TRAVELING, THAT'S MULTIPLE TIMES...

MAYBE WHERE THE LAB IS?



YEAH. WE FOLLOW IT.

ALDEN, HOLO KPD, TELL THE BLACK CLOAKS TO STAY HIDDEN OUTSIDE ELEA VERIS'S PLACE. KEEP AN EYE. NO MOVES WITHOUT WORD.

ON IT, SIR.



THEY
DEAD END
HERE.

NOT
"DEAD END"...
THEY "GO UNDER"
HERE.



THE
ACADEMY FOR
HUMAN ADVANCEMENT.
A MASSIVE CAMPUS...
IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW
WHICH OF THE BUILDINGS
THIS TRAIL MIGHT
RE-EMERGE
IN.



DO NOT
EVEN SUGGEST
WHAT YOU'RE
ABOUT TO
SUGGEST.

!

WE HAVE
TO USE THE
TUNNEL.



I SAID
DON'T SAY
IT!

YOU
KNOW I'M
RIGHT.



...AND YOU
REMEMBER WHAT
HAPPENED LAST TIME I
BLINDLY FOLLOWED
YOU.

...IT'S
BURNED INTO
EVERY MOMENT
OF MY EVERY
DAY, PAX.







WE MAY BE GETTING CLOSE... I FEEL CONVERSATION... FEELS MOSTLY HUMAN.

GOOD.



DETECTIVES?

IT COMES.

WE SHOULD HURRY.



THE IMPORTANT THING IS KEEPING OURSELVES OUT OF IT AND PROTECTING THE SYNTHETIC MAGIC STORES.



I CANNOT BELIEVE YOU'VE DRAGGED ME INTO THIS ONLY TO HAVE IT FALL APART, ELEA!



OH, SHUT UP. IT'S YOUR FAULT WE INVENTED SYNTHETIC MAGIC IN THE FIRST PLACE, LYSANTHIR!



IT'S JUST THE TWO OF THEM UP THERE. BUT THERE ARE DRAGYERN IN A TANK AND "PODS" LIKE WHAT WE SAW IN DAGMAR'S MEMORY. ASSUMING WE'RE RIGHT AND THEY CONTROL DRAGYERN, ELEA COULD ACTIVATE THEM ANY TIME.

FUCKING LYSANTHIR. STILL ALIVE. WHY ARE THE EVILEST PRICKS ALWAYS THE MOST HARDY?



loc. >> 011.03

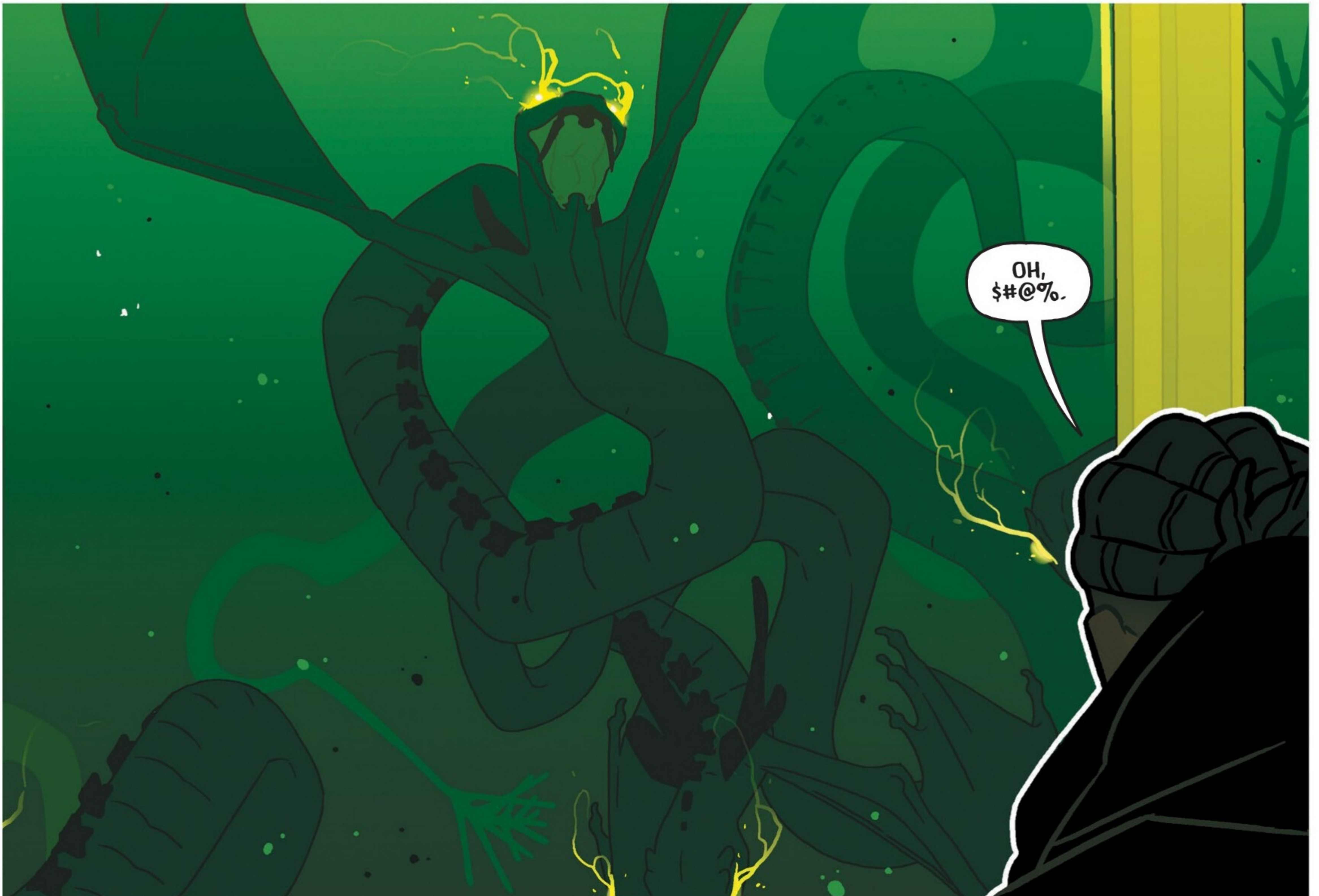
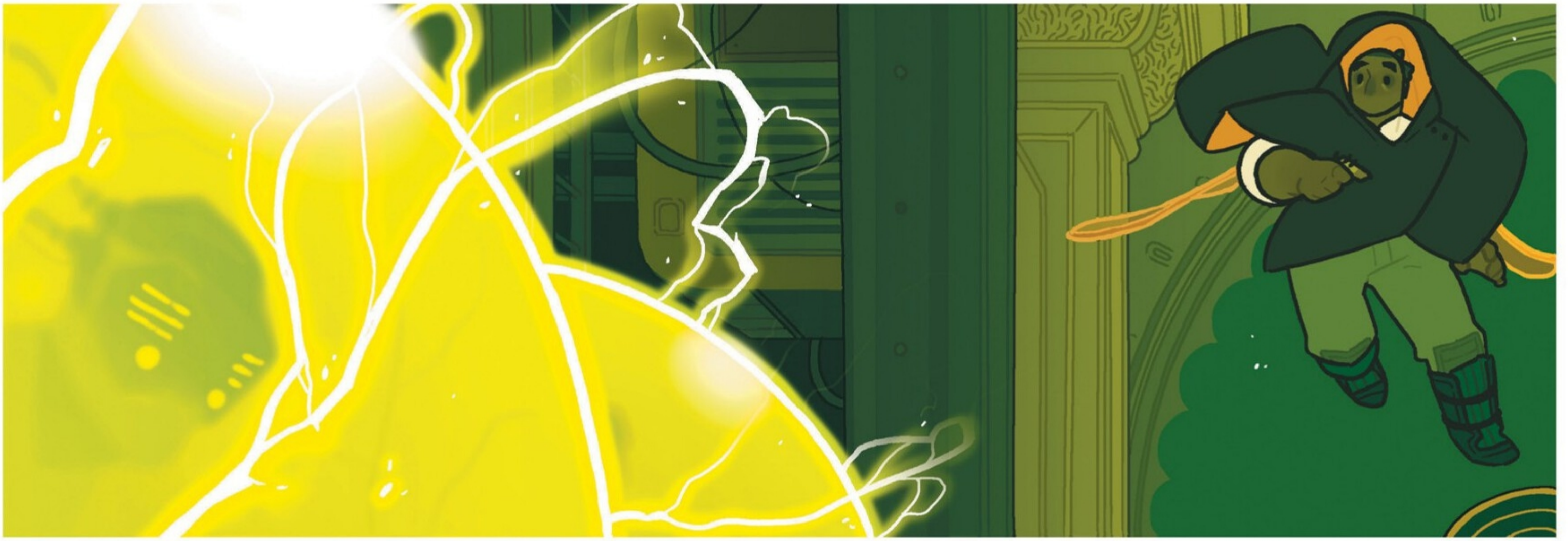
A.H.A. SECRET LAB,
THE HEIGHTS.

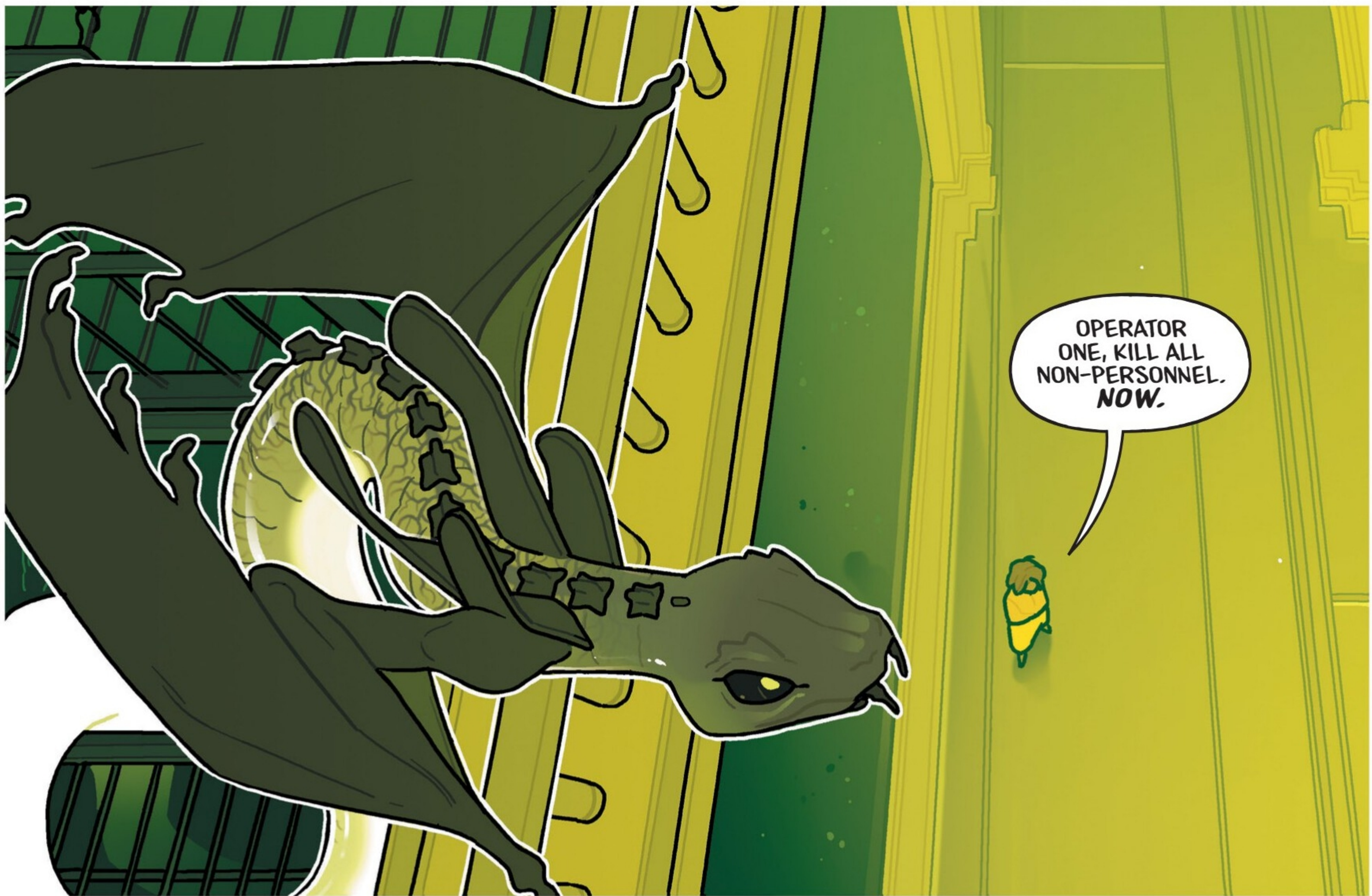
I CAN'T
BELIEVE WE'RE
SAYING THIS TO YOU
AGAIN, LYSANTHIR,
BUT THIS IS
ALL ENDING
TONIGHT.



ELEA, KEEP
IT TOGETHER.
AND PERHAPS WE
CAN PUT YOU BOTH IN
THE SAME CELL--
WITH A SURPRISINGLY
EXCELLENT VIEW--
THAT THE FORMER
QUEEN CURRENTLY
OCCUPIES.







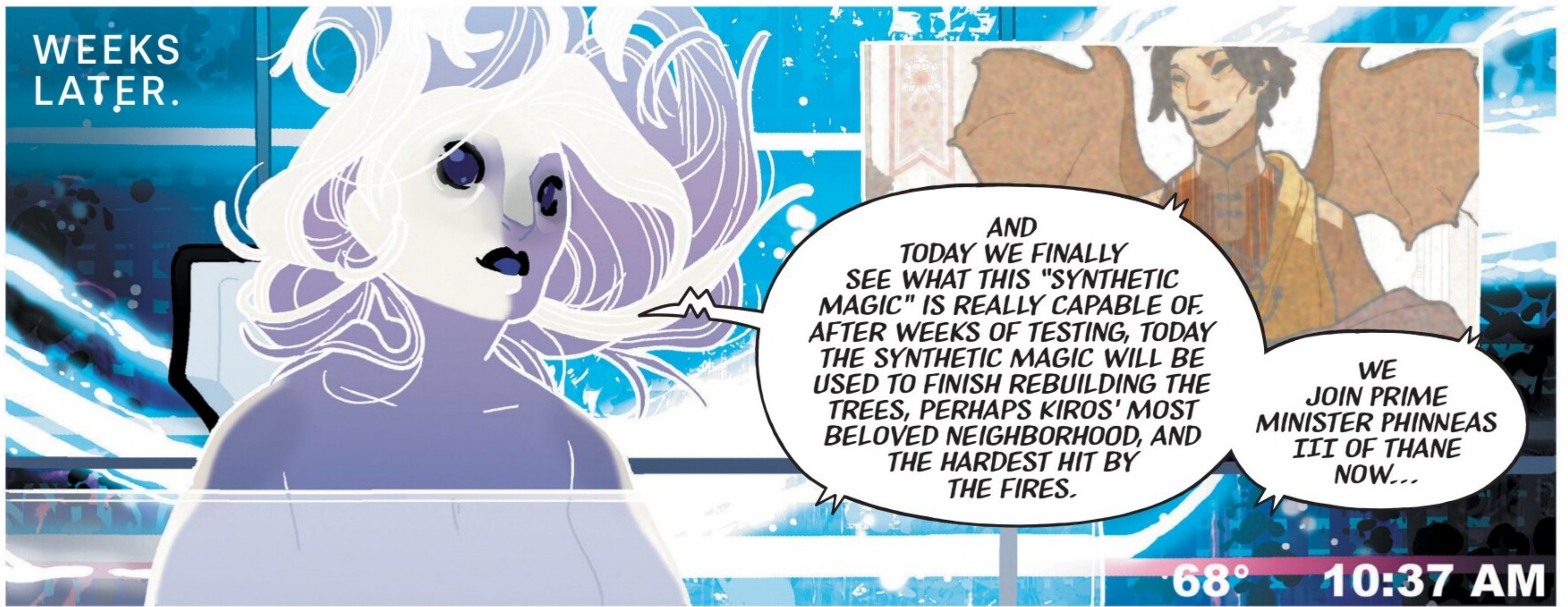














FIVE YEARS AGO, THE
LAST CITY IN THE KNOWN
WORLD BURNED.

MANY DIED. THE SURVIVORS...DID
WHAT SURVIVORS DO, THEY CARRIED
ON. THEY DID THEIR BEST KNOWING
THAT THERE'S REALLY NO SUCH
THING AS "VANQUISHING EVIL."

FOR THERE WILL ALWAYS
BE ANOTHER EVIL, READY
TO RISE UP AND TAKE
THE OLD ONE'S PLACE.

TIME IS BUT A
FLAT CIRCLE.

ENDLESS CYCLES OF
EVIL RISING UP AND
GOOD RISING TO MEET
IT WHERE IT LIVES,
TO BEAT IT BACK.

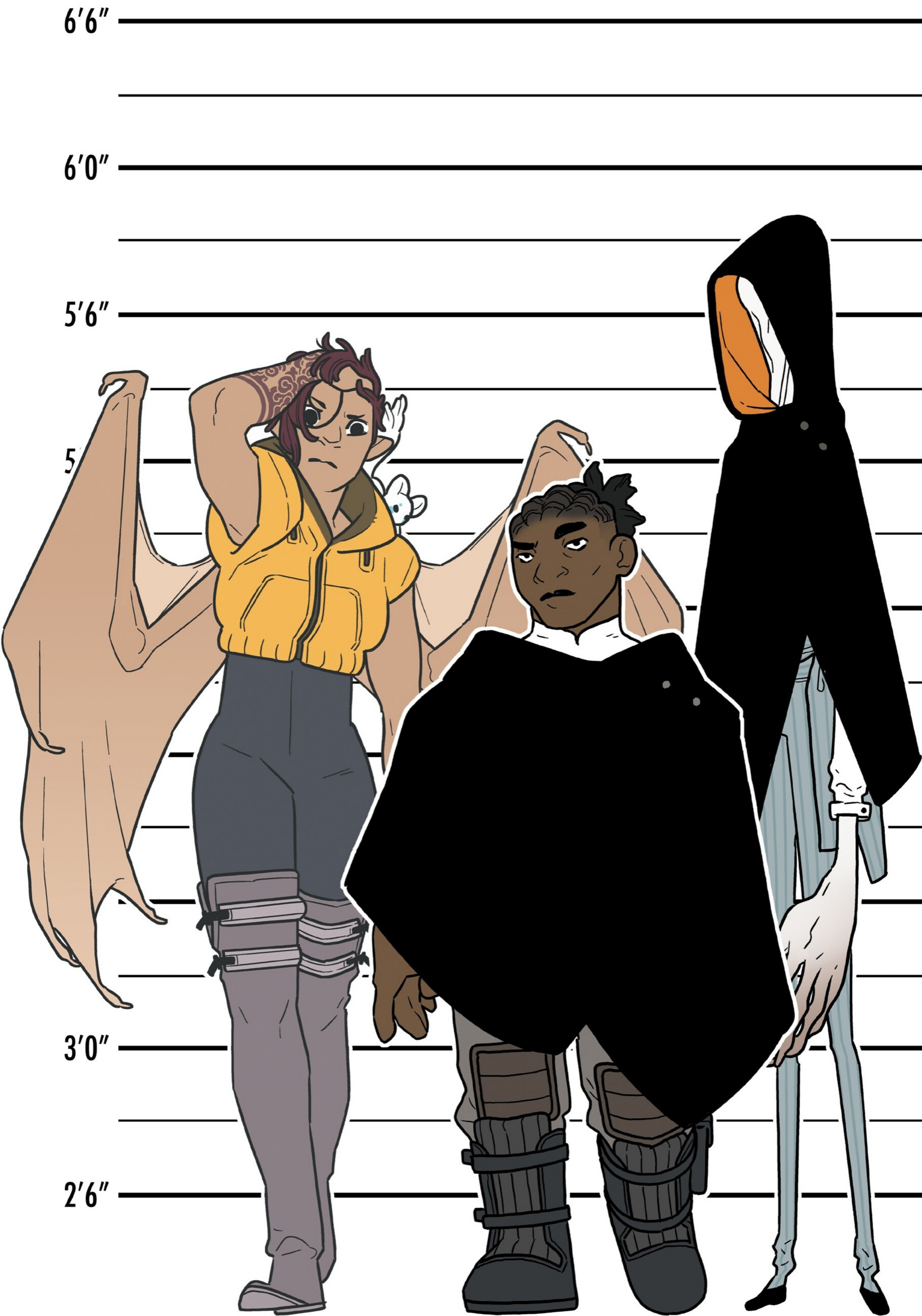
AND SO LONG AS
IT NEVER STOPS
FIGHTING.

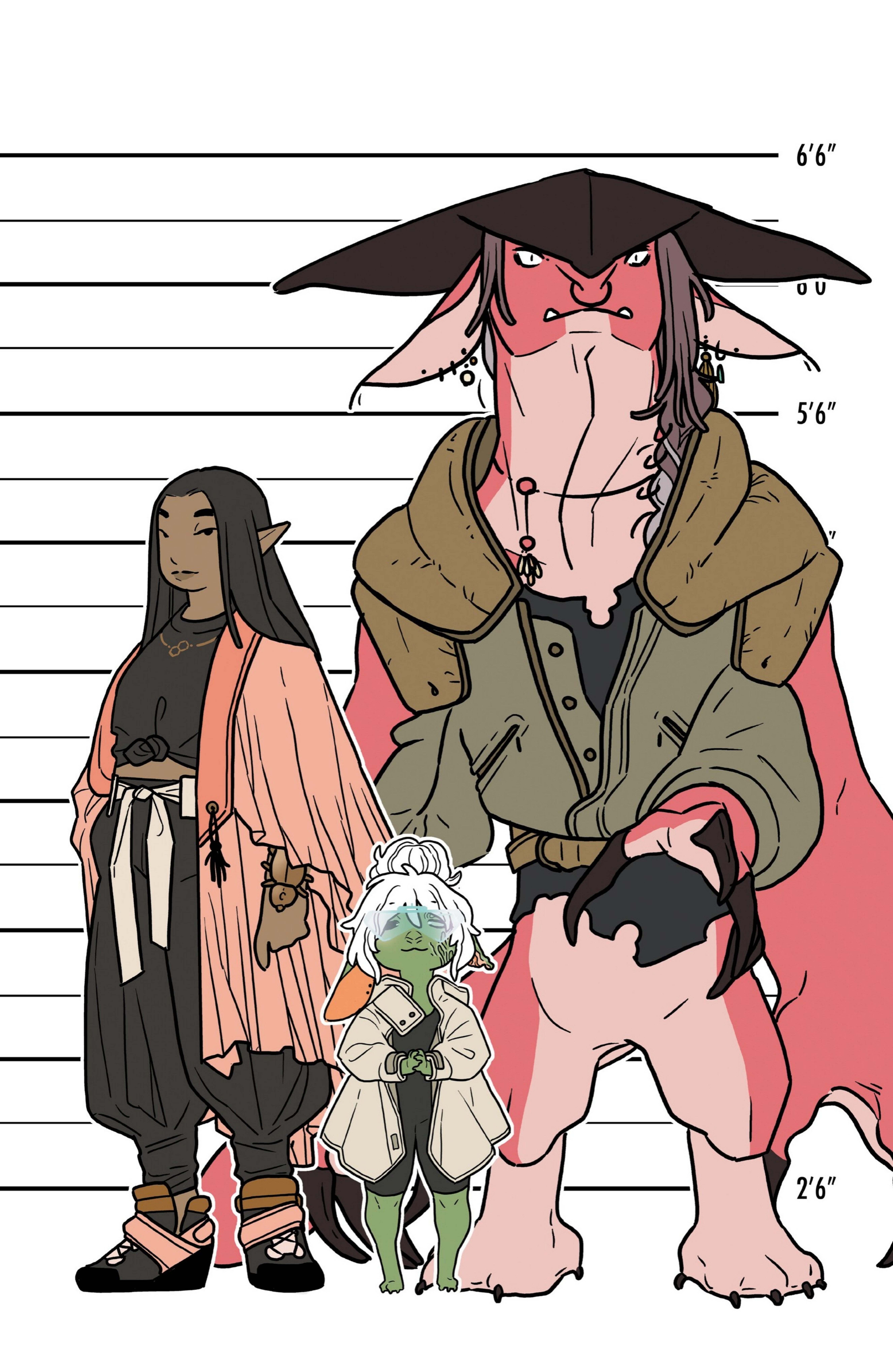
WELL THEN...
THERE'S HOPE.

end of arc.

>> 02

MEREDITH MCCLAREN
The *Black Cloak* cast



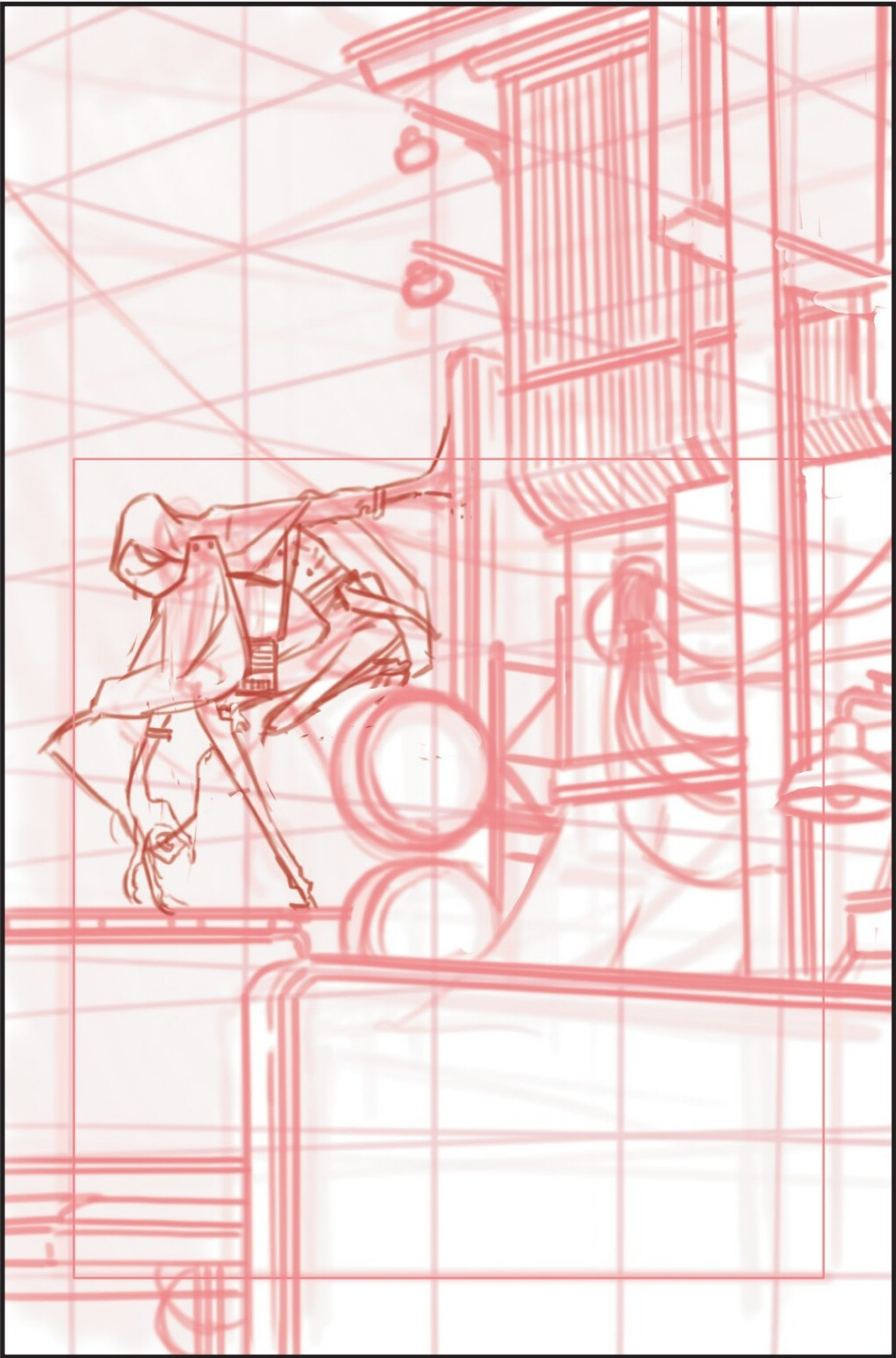
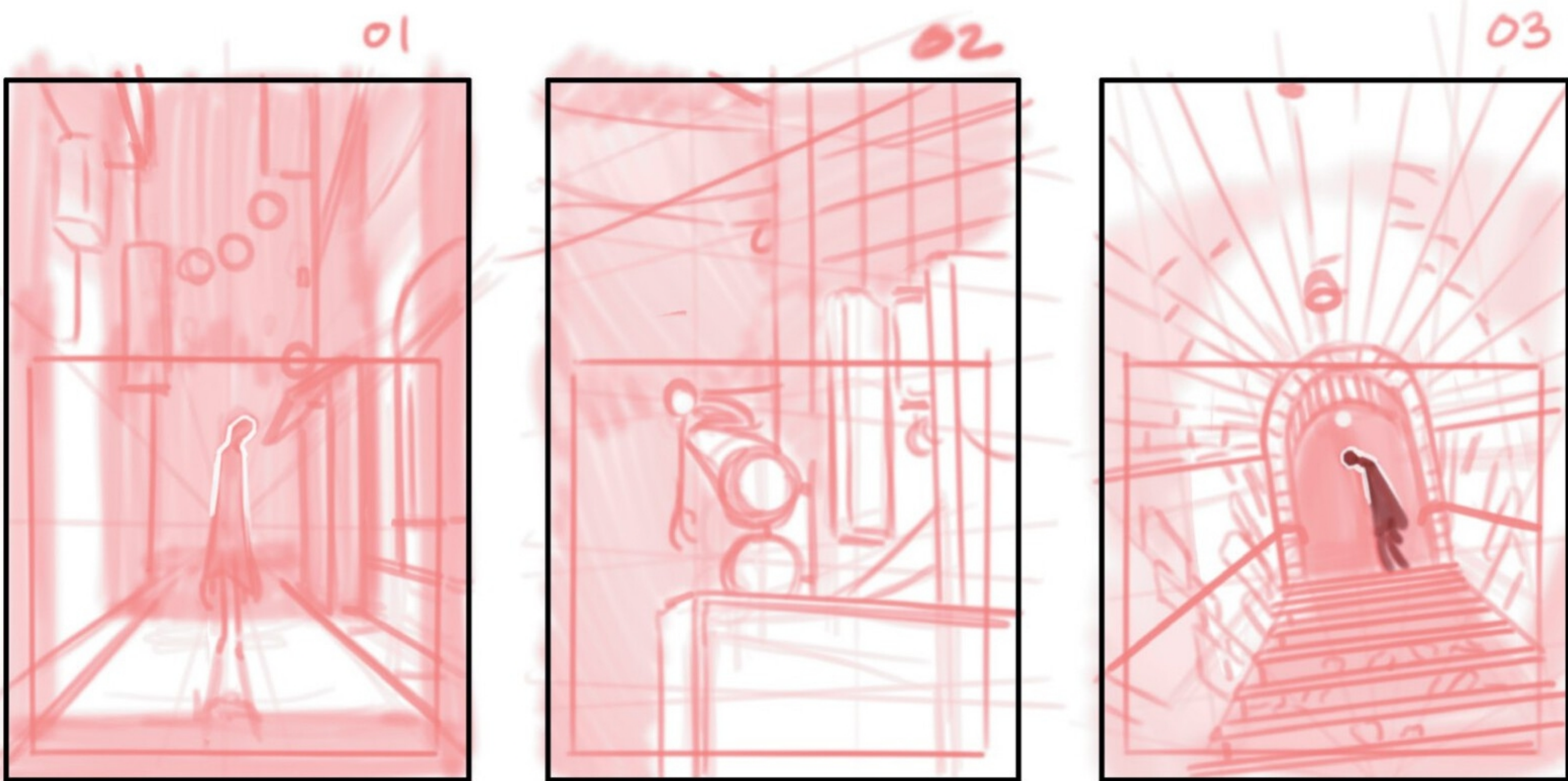


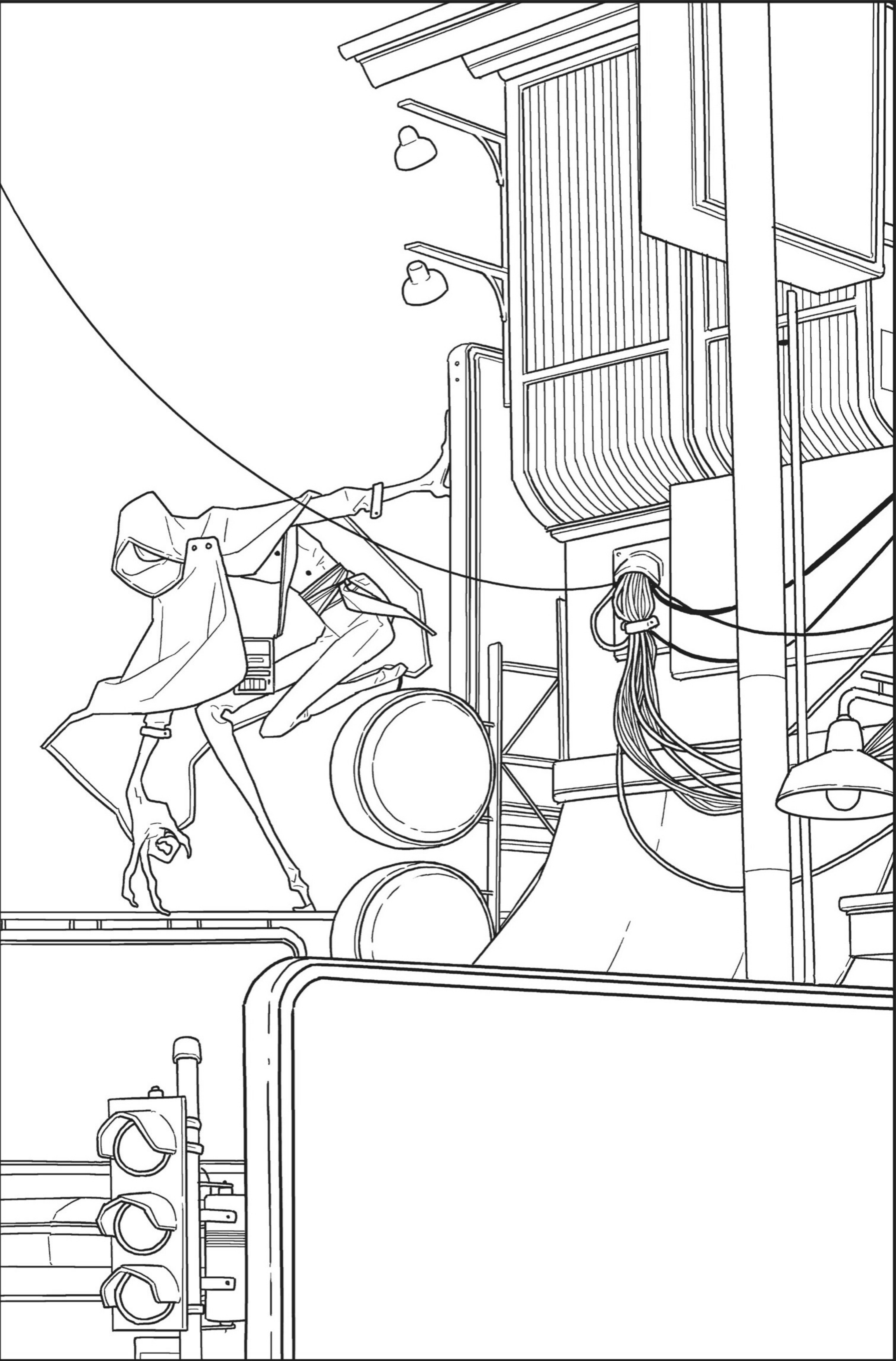
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Issue 9 cover process — sketches to final piece







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BLACK CLOAK COVER GALLERY







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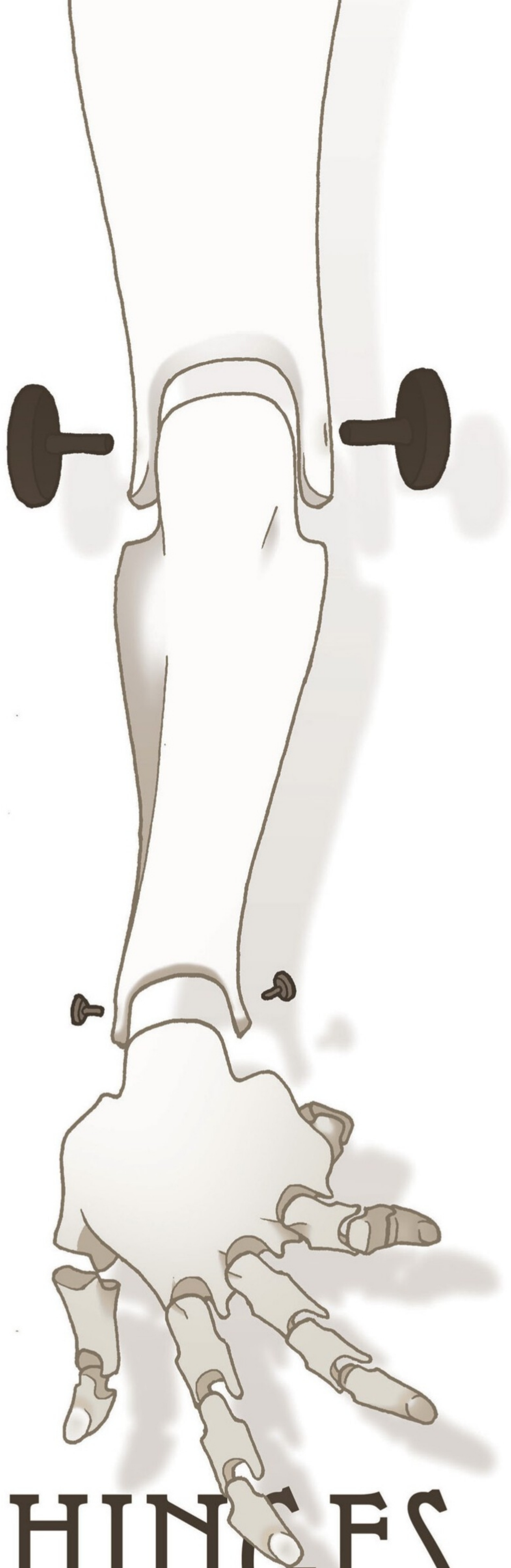


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